The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance’s (CVSA) annual inspection blitz, Roadcheck, is the largest targeted enforcement program on commercial vehicles in the world. Roadcheck is being held this year June 4-6. During this 72-hour period in early June, approximately 14 trucks or buses will be inspected every minute from Canada to Mexico.

Each year, approximately 10,000 CVSA-certified local, state, provincial and federal inspectors at 1,500 locations across North America perform the truck and bus inspections. CVSA sponsors Roadcheck with participation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators, Transport Canada, and the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (Mexico). During Roadcheck, CVSA-certified inspectors conduct compliance, enforcement and educational initiatives targeted at various elements of motor carrier, vehicle, driver, and cargo safety and security.
According to a CVSA press release, nearly 75,000 truck inspections were performed by members of local, state and federal inspectors, producing a 22.4 percent out-of-service rate for vehicles and a 3.9 percent out-of-service rate for drivers in 2012. Since its inception in 1988, the roadside inspections conducted during Roadcheck have numbered over 1 million, resulting in more than 220 lives saved and 4,045 injuries avoided. It has also provided for the distribution of countless pieces of educational literature and safety events to educate industry and the general public about the importance of safe commercial vehicle operations and the roadside inspection program.

For companies that operate commercial motor vehicles or drivers of a commercial motor vehicle, it is commonplace to think you need to take extra precautions prior to Roadcheck in hopes of not being placed out of service. Some companies step up vehicle inspections in the days leading up to the enforcement blitz whereas some drivers schedule vacation during the same timeframe. However, the root cause of a vehicle or a driver placed out of service for a violation during Roadcheck is not increased enforcement. A better practice is to use Roadcheck as an annual review of the processes you use all year long to keep your drivers and vehicles operating safely.
Here are some tips to keep your vehicles and drivers operating safely and efficiently throughout the year:

- Be sure your drivers are properly trained on how to conduct thorough pre- and post-trip inspections. Some of the key items to be inspected include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brakes</th>
<th>Tires and Rims</th>
<th>Suspension</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check for missing, nonfunctioning, loose, contaminated or cracked parts</td>
<td>Check tires for proper inflation and tread depth</td>
<td>Identify damaged or deflated air bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure the air system maintains air pressure between 90 and 100 psi</td>
<td>Inspect tread and sidewalls for bulges, cuts or other defects</td>
<td>Look for cracked, shifted or missing leaf springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspect required brake system warning devices, such as ABS malfunction lamps and low air pressure warning devices</td>
<td>Look for cracked or bent rims</td>
<td>Inspect for loose or damaged spring hangers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test for proper brake function prior to departure</td>
<td>Loose or missing lug nuts</td>
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- Fuel and Exhaust Systems
  - Ensure fuel tank is securely mounted
  - Verify fuel cap gasket is in place and the cap is tightened
  - Look for evidence of fuel leaks
  - Verify exhaust system is securely mounted
  - Look for possible exhaust leaks around clamps and seams
  - Check fuel level is adequate prior to departure

- Lighting
  - Inspect all lighting devices for proper operation
  - Clean headlights and taillights for proper visibility

- Cargo Securement
  - Check and verify all cargo is secured from relative movement
  - Inspect cargo securement devices for serviceability
  - Ensure cargo doors are closed and properly secured

- Windshield Wipers and Washer Fluid
  - Check washer fluid level reservoir level
  - Verify wiper motor and fluid pump are operational
  - Inspect wiper blades for serviceability

- Periodically review driver vehicle inspections—are defects being identified? Are repairs made timely?

- Review maintenance protocols:
  - Are scheduled maintenance intervals adequate for your fleet?
  - Do you have processes in place to validate the quality of your internal or maintenance providers?

- Educate dispatchers, load planners and maintenance personnel in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and their roles in maintaining a safe and compliant fleet.

A solid preventative maintenance program and drivers conducting thorough pre- and post-trip inspections can make Roadcheck just like any other 72-hour period on the highways—business as usual.
Our Mission

To be the worldwide value and service leader in insurance brokerage, employee benefits, and risk management

Our Goal

To be the best place to do business and to work