

**FEATURED PRODUCT**

**4-IN-1 with ISOFLEX™**

- Spiral wrapped for a clean organized look
- Outstanding kink and abrasion resistance
- Includes hanging clamp and clip for easy installation (P/N 5-5008 and 17-173)
- ISOFLEX™ cable offers a twisted pair of brown & green wires to reduce radio noise for auxiliary connections



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## Improving Vehicle Maintenance Performance under CSA

Performance under CSA is measured using a Safety Measurement System (SMS). The data that this measurement system uses to evaluate a carrier or driver's risk is sorted into seven BASIC's or Behavior Analysis Safety Improvement Categories. One of these BASICs is Vehicle Maintenance. Violations related to the Vehicle Maintenance BASIC adversely affect SMS results for 24 months.

The top 10 Vehicle Maintenance violations are shown in the chart below. Being that these are the most cited violations under this CSA BASIC, it's highly suggested that a driver pay a little more attention to these particular items when performing their inspection.

Properly maintaining a vehicle under CSA guidelines begins with proper inspection. Motor carriers should educate and train their drivers how to properly conduct pre-trip inspections and post-trip inspection reports, which includes properly recording vehicle defects in the DVIRs (Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports). When possible, inspections should go beyond the minimum requirements by checking the vehicle every time it's parked. One of the top reasons a vehicle is pulled over for inspection is because an officer spots something wrong, for example, a defective light. Inspect the vehicle regularly for easy-to-spot defects to avoid getting pulled over.

Motor carriers should also ensure that their drivers know that any vehicle malfunction or maintenance problem must be addressed proactively to prevent crashes. A driver needs to notify maintenance staff about any defects found during an inspection as soon as possible, whether through the daily inspection report, or some other means. If minor issues are found that can be repaired while on the road after leaving the yard, it is suggested that the driver keep the following items on hand:

- Pocket continuity testers for plugs & sockets
- Plug & socket brush
- Extra 7-way socket and 7-way plug

- Hose holder and hose separators
- Extra tender spring
- Handful of dielectric grease packets
- 2 universal gladhands and extra gladhand seals
- Cable ties
- Extra lights
- Wire stripper and crimping tool
- Conspicuity tape
- Emergency tire inflator
- Emergency hose repair kits
- Basic tool kit
- Flashlight (with an extra set of batteries)

Keeping these suggested items on hand will offer a temporary solution to problems that can arise while on the road and away from maintenance personnel. In addition, they will also help to avoid downtime and the costly expense of possibly having to call for help.

If proper maintenance inspections are performed and all vehicle malfunction or maintenance problems are addressed as soon as possible, then the risk of being cited for CSA vehicle maintenance violations can be significantly reduced.

For more information please reference the FMCSA website at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/).

### Top 10 most common roadside vehicle maintenance violations

VIOLATION	DESCRIPTION	SEVERITY
§393.9(a)	Inoperative required lamp	2
§393.11	No or defective lighting/reflective devices	3
§393.45(b)(2)	Brake hose/tubing chaffing and/or kinking	4
§396.3(a)(1)	Parts/accessories in unsafe condition	2
§393.75(c)	Tire tread depth less than 2/32 of an inch	8
§396.5(b)	Oil and/or grease leak	3
§393.47(e)	Clamp/Roto-Chamber type brake(s) out of Adjustment	4
§396.17(c)	No proof of annual inspection	4
§393.95(a)	No/discharged/unsecured fire extinguisher	2
§393.25(f)	Stop lamp violations	6



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- Never drive an OOS (Out Of Operation) vehicle.
- Never skip scheduled preventive maintenance.
- Proof of annual inspection must always be kept on board. If operating a combination vehicle make sure all vehicles in the combination are covered, including the trailer.

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