

SMART DRIVER[®]

April 2022

UNDERSTANDING AND PREPARING FOR ROADSIDE INSPECTIONS

Roadside inspections are a part of the trucking industry, but drivers can play a big role in determining the frequency with which they occur. Three factors that commonly trigger roadside inspections are the environment, the condition of the truck, and the driver's behavior.

Read the information below and ask yourself if there are actions you can take to reduce the likelihood of a roadside inspection and violations.

RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS

ENVIRONMENT

Roadside inspections may increase during periods of increased enforcement, such as during the annual CVSA Road check campaign. A driver's inspection records including employer's Safety Measurement System (SMS) in US and CVOR rating in Canada can also draw unwanted attention and trigger an inspection.



EQUIPMENT

The condition of the tractor and trailer, both inside and out, can draw an inspector's attention. Improper cargo securement, visible defects, missing placards, and a cluttered cab can trigger an inspection.



PERSONAL BEHAVIORS

Speeding, tailgating, abrupt lane changes and making U-turns are examples of unsafe driving behaviors that draw the attention of inspectors. Additionally, not wearing a seatbelt, an untidy appearance, and being unable to provide required paperwork (or filling it out incorrectly) invite scrutiny.

KNOW THE DEFENSE

UTILIZE THE ESSENTIAL 7 DRIVING TECHNIQUES

1. React properly to hazards.
2. Avoid distractions.
3. Be attentive to the road ahead.
4. Maintain proper following distance.
5. Observe proper speed for conditions.
6. Maintain one lane.
7. Yield the right of way.

OTHER TIPS

- Conduct a thorough pre-trip inspection and fix defective items before driving.
- Ensure all occupants are wearing proper restraints.
- Place emergency warning signs around the vehicle within 10 minutes of stopping.
- Keep the vehicle's interior and exterior clean.
- Secure cargo properly.
- Ensure the trailer has the proper placards in use if hauling hazardous materials.
- Be polite to the inspector.
- Be well-rested, groomed, and cleanly dressed.
- Keep logs current and properly annotated.

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Knowledge Verification

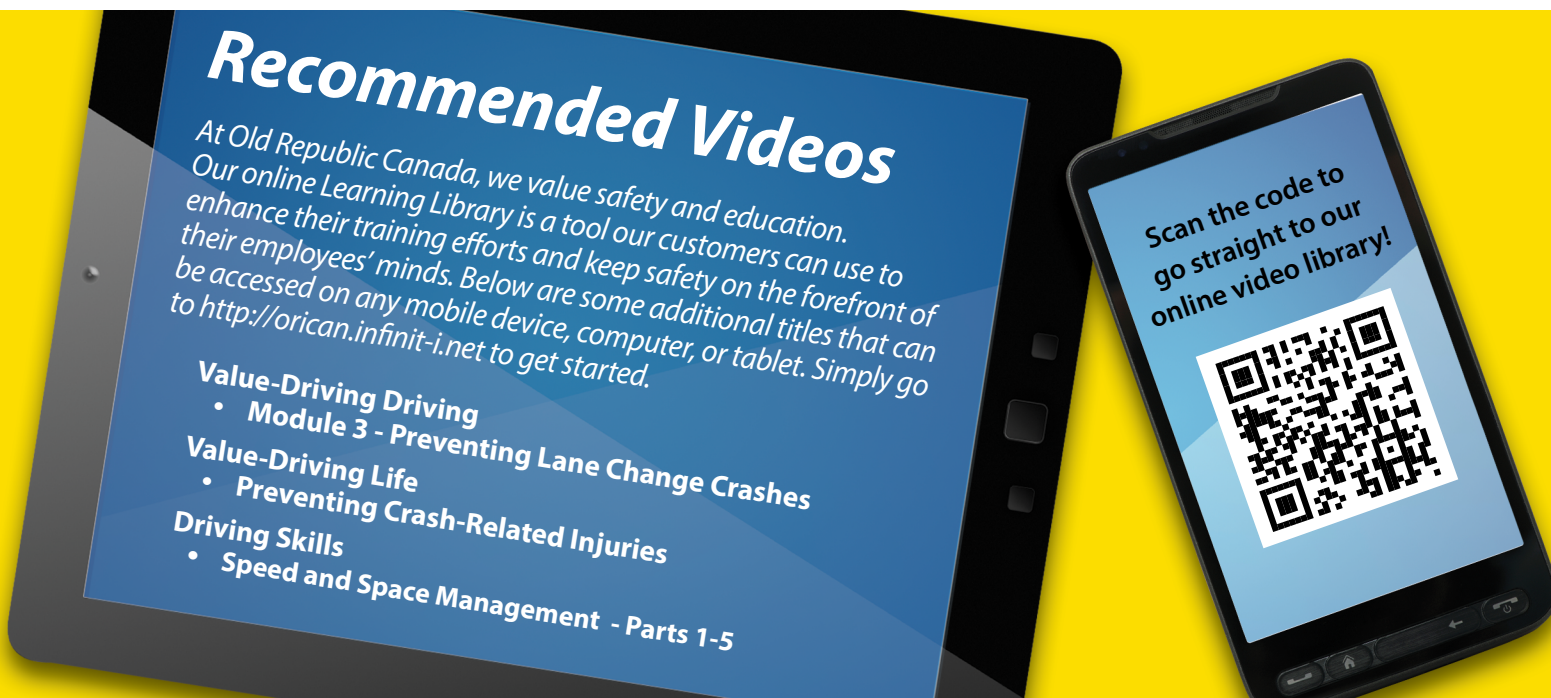
Driver's Name: _____ Driver's Signature: _____

Emp/Unit#: _____ Date: _____ Witness Name: _____

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. The condition of the tractor and trailer, both inside and out, can draw an inspector's attention. | True | False |
| 2. Driver's own poor inspection records can also result in an unwanted roadside inspection. | True | False |
| 3. Being rude and failure to listen to instructions is one way to avoid an inspection. | True | False |

Answers:
1. True
2. True
3. False



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