

BEST PRACTICES: BRAKE SAFETY TIPS TO REDUCE VIOLATIONS

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON vehicle out-of-service violations is break system violations. Commercial vehicle brakes must be properly functioning in order to hold up under all road conditions. Routine inspections and maintenance are essential.

Implementing best practices to promote brake safety involves a combination of regular maintenance, driver education, and adherence to all regulations. By ensuring your organization and drivers are prioritizing brake safety, you will create a safer driving environment and decrease out-of-service violations.

BEST PRACTICES TO PROMOTE BRAKE SAFETY:

- Conduct gate checks before drivers leave the yard. Emphasize brakes, lights, and tires.
- Inspect equipment at least every 30 days.
- Establish a road maintenance program with prequalified vendors nationally.
- Define and enforce maintenance inspection intervals.
- Place equipment out of service if overdue for maintenance.
- Require and review pre- and post-trip inspections. Ensure defects are fixed immediately.
- Allow only a qualified shop to adjust brakes. If a driver is allowed to make the adjustments, ensure he/she is certified for the type of brakes being adjusted.
- Provide ongoing driver training.
- Establish clear maintenance processes for your owner operators:
 - Require maintenance documentation every 30 days.
 - Conduct independent vehicle inspections every 90 days.

For more information on how to successfully contract with owner operators, see Acrisure Risk Resources' "Contracting with Owner Operators Who Embrace Your Organization's Safety Culture."

According to the CVSA, brake-related violations comprise the largest percentage of all out-of-service violations cited during roadside inspections. Improperly installed or poorly maintained brake systems can reduce braking capacity and stopping distance of trucks and buses, which poses a serious risk to driver and public safety.

COMMUNICATE BRAKE BEST-PRACTICES WITH YOUR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS INCLUDING:

- Thorough pre-trip inspections.
- Proper load distribution.
- Maintaining safe following distance which reduces hard braking.
- Staying up to date on the latest brake safety regulations and maintenance practices.



GET AHEAD OF any potential brake violations by taking a comprehensive and proactive approach to inspections.

Acrisure's risk resources team offers on-demand, virtual and live training tools to help you elevate your organization's performance and profitability and gain more control over the cost of your insurance and risk.

For more information, please contact your Acrisure representative or email riskresources@acrisure.com

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