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Roadside Inspections: Know What to Expect

When your drivers report to work, before they get behind the wheel of any commercial motor vehicle, they need to be prepared mentally, physically, and emotionally for the rigorous challenges of the day. In the same respect, the vehicles which are driven need to be safe and secure for operation.

In order to ensure that safety and operational requirements are being adhered to, a driver may periodically be asked by law enforcement or DOT inspectors to show required documents and allow the investigator to inspect the vehicle and/or the driver for compliance. This means that a driver needs to be prepared administratively prior to departure. Consider the following questions:

- Do your managers and dispatchers know what papers the drivers should have with them prior to departure?
- Have your drivers been instructed on the paperwork they should carry in the cab?
- Have the drivers been trained on how to conduct themselves in the event of a roadside inspection?
- Are their records neat and orderly, or are they scattered throughout the cab?
- Are the papers completed properly and legibly?
- Are photocopies reproduced so they can be read as easily as the original?

Quote by Ben Franklin, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."



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