

FOCUS ON

Safety

PENSKE

# Surviving Roadside Inspections

You're only 60 miles from home and the dreaded words come over the CB, "eastbound weigh station is open." Sure enough, when you get up to the sign, it says "open" and you pull in to wait your turn.



Now, you suddenly think about how your logbook looks and if the inspector will see your one brake light out. Plus, you haven't weighed the load and you think you might be over on your rear tandems. Do you quickly grab your logbook and catch it up while you're waiting in line? Hopefully not, it should be caught up to the last change in duty status.

Roadside inspections are not the most enjoyable times for drivers. Many drivers see the process as a waste of their duty day and a few drivers see it as an intrusion. Roadside inspections should be viewed as a necessary inconvenience for the sake of everyone's safety.

Drivers are required by federal regulation to submit to an inspection when requested by an enforcement official. However, there are things they can do, or have control over, that will decrease chances of being selected for an inspection.

- **Keep equipment clean** – A dirty tractor and trailer usually speaks accurately about its mechanical condition. Keep equipment well maintained and CLEAN.
- **Conduct a thorough pre-trip inspection** – Obvious problems like burned out lights, air leaks, or flat tires can be discovered during a pre-trip inspection.
- **Check** the vehicle's weight before heading down the road.
- **Drive courteously** – Drive the speed limit and don't stand out in a crowd.
- **Don't turn on illegal after-market lighting at night** – We all like the colorful light displays but they are only legal to have on while parked. Examples of this are Neon or black lights in the cab, purple lights installed in the load lights, red lights installed in the front clearance and ID lamps, etc.
- **Wear your seatbelt** – Many drivers do not wear them, and they forget to put them on when pulling into a scale. An observant Inspector will notice this and might choose your driver for an inspection.
- **Don't have a radar detector** – Several jurisdictions now have and use radar detector detectors at the scale houses.
- **Have good luck** – Believe it or not; some inspections are conducted on a purely random selection process.

When approaching the scale house, drivers should roll their window down so that they can hear and comply with any directions given. They also should have their logbook and permit binder ready, and be professional.

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