

B.D.R. Safety Consulting Inc.



Newsletter April 2010

Volume 1, Issue 4

Out Of Service Vehicles... What are the real numbers?

You have seen the numbers as they are reported by various enforcement agencies.

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance will tell you that some of the numbers are improving, while other agencies will tell you that they are not.

So, who are we to believe. Well it is complicated.

If we only look at the reported numbers as put out by CVSA, we find out that approximately 20% of trucks inspected are placed Out Of Service. That is a pretty bad number. This means that 1 out of every 5 trucks inspected has defects that are considered to be potentially incident causing.

The scary part of these numbers is that the majority of those inspections, such as the June Blitz, are well advertised and on routes where most long distance trucking occurs.

Take the inspection out of those corridors, and the OOS numbers increase significantly.



Inspection Standards are set by CVSA and used by enforcement jurisdictions across North America. All inspection results are reported to CVSA.

Are the numbers truly as bad as they look?

If we read them without asking ourselves questions, they certainly are. But we just can't take numbers at face value.

When inspections are performed, inspectors will ignore vehicles that have a CVSA decal suffixed to their window. This decal indicates that the vehicle was once inspected and met with the minimum safety requirements.

Many inspectors will also target vehicles that appear in some form of disrepair. Why? Because they are doing their job and doing it well. They are attempting to remove the unfit vehicle off the road in an attempt to improve vehicle safety.

There is no doubt that this changes the Out Of Service numbers that are being published by CVSA and various enforcement agencies.

The Delta British Columbia Police Department recently held an inspection blitz which resulted in 188 trucks being placed Out Of Service. That represented 42% of all vehicles inspected being placed Out Of Service.

This was a targeted blitz focussing on trucks that appeared to be in state of disrepair.

It certainly does not represent the state of the trucking industry.

(Numbers reported by CVSA June 2009)

OOS Violations Data	Percent of Total OOS Violations		
	2009	2009	2007
Vehicles			
Brake Adjustments	24.7	25.0	28.1
Brake System	26.9	27.5	26.9
Tires/Wheels	10.5	9.5	8.9
Lights	11.6	11.7	14.0
Safe Loading	9.8	10.4	11.1
Steering	2.2	2.1	2.1
Frame	1.6	1.8	1.3
Suspension	4.5	4.8	4.5
Coupling Devices	0.8	0.7	0.7
Fuel System	1.0	0.6	0.6
Exhaust System	0.3	0.2	0.2

OOS Violations Data	Percent of Total OOS Violations		
	2009	2009	2007
Drivers			
HOS	53.1	55.8	66.3
False Logs	10.4	12.5	11.7
Suspended	4.7	4.8	3.9
Expired licence	1.3	1.4	1.6
Cancelled Licence	0.3	0.3	0.2
Disqualified	4.7	3.2	3.7
Withdrawn Licence	0.1	0.1	0.2
Revoked Licence	0.6	0.5	0.3
Endorsement	3.2	2.8	2.5
Age	0.4	0.6	0.3
Drug/Alcohol	1.1	0.8	1.6

These numbers are from the annual June 72 hour road check conducted across North America.

There is no doubt that there is still lots of room for improvement considering that these checks are well advertised to the trucking community.

We must keep in mind that we will never know the true numbers until such time where every single vehicle will be inspected

As the years go by, the numbers are slowly improving. However, targeted enforcement, like the Delta check are still required in order to target the individuals that don't seem to care about the overall safety of the motoring public.

Until such time that all trucks can be inspected, we will never truly know the real numbers of potentially unsafe vehicle and drivers using North American roadways.

Based on how inspections are conducted and the numbers of vehicles that have successfully passed previous inspections, the overall number of unsafe vehicles is not as high as they appear in the published statistics.

Only thru proper maintenance, driver education and continued enforcement will we be able to reduce the number of unsafe vehicle and drivers on highways.

It is up to all of us who are involved in the trucking industry to work harder at making a difference.

For more information on Vehicle Inspections or Vehicle Inspection Courses, contact B.D.R. Safety Consulting Inc.

Safe Travels.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please contact: bdrsafetyconsultinginc@sasktel.net

If you have questions or comments E-mail us at: bdrsafetyconsultinginc@sasktel.net

or call 1-306-737-2911

If you wish to contact us by mail, send to: 3522 Sandringham Road East, Regina, SK S4V 3C8

or Fax at 1-306-789-2691



www.bdrsafetyconsulting.com