



Put the Brakes on Roadcheck Violations

Truck Maintenance Tips by Peterbilt Service Manager Dennis Zimmerer

An estimated 1,000 commercial vehicles were inspected every hour each year during the annual **Operation Roadcheck** safety marathon at numerous highway locations in the US, Canada and Mexico. The federal/state **Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance** (CVSA) inspectors place out of service approximately one fourth of all trucks inspected during the three-day crackdown each June.

Inspectors continue to find brake issues as the Number One violation again last year. Nearly half the trucks cited had brake system violations (**30.1%**) or the brakes were out of adjustment (**19.5%**). While truck drivers can screen many truck components during a pre-trip inspection, the braking system includes many parts hidden behind the wheels and undercarriage, which are not easy to view.

Inspectors check for missing, non-functioning, loose, contaminated or cracked parts throughout the braking system. They will also listen for air leaks and ensure the air system maintains pressure between **90-100 psi**.

The estimated thickness of the brake lining should be more than **1/4" thick** on every brake. The slack adjusters should be the same length from the center of the S-cam to the center of the clevis pin. When checking the brake adjustment, the slack adjusters' travel should be 1.25 inch.

The air chambers on each axle should be identical and pushrod travel should be consistent. A visual inspection of the brake drums should not find any cracks, grooves or excessive wear, etc. Brake hoses should have no cracking, chafing or damage.

The inspection includes checking the operation of the parking brake, brake lights and automatic braking system (ABS) dash warning lights. Inspectors may check the tractor/trailer's bleed-back system.



How can you make sure your truck is ready to go and its brakes able to stop? How can you avoid mechanical violations by Operation Roadcheck inspectors in June?

Our Peterbilt factory-trained technicians can crawl under your vehicle and analyze the critical components. We offer our 103-point Pre-Roadcheck/ DOT safety inspection to help you prepare for Operation Roadcheck.