



Maintenance Tip by Peterbilt Service Foreman Matt Steeg

The Operation Roadcheck safety marathon, held annually during the first week of June each year on the major highways in North America, is only one of many chances that your truck will be inspected by federal or state inspectors. One of the maintenance issues that a driver can easily overlook, but get cited by inspectors, involves lighting.

During a pre-trip inspection around sunrise, drivers usually will catch a malfunctioning turn-signal lamp or brake light. But in the morning light, they may not notice burned out cab, sleeper and trailer bulbs. Some inspectors will write up any malfunctioning lamp as a safety violation. And the infraction will be heightened because a safety violation involving lights has a high severity weight factor of 6!

It is wise to bring along extra replacement bulbs, especially the old-fashioned filament lamps, in case some burn out during a trip. Try to have as many lights as possible of the same style bulb, to minimize the number of spares to keep in your glove box.

Traditional filament light bulbs can be problematic because of short bulb life, due to vibration, corrosion and weather. Today's new LED (Light-Emitting Diode) bulbs are a major improvement with longer life and better seals.

For example, **TRP® brand LED Lights** feature a long 100,000-hour lifespan, which reduces maintenance costs. The high-diode-count bulbs are brighter than standard bulbs. The lenses are made with high-impact polycarbonate for great toughness and nighttime visibility. The electronics are completely sealed in epoxy to prevent corrosion/moisture issues and meet DOT regulations.

Peterbilt Parts Store staff can help you find a replacement LED kit for many lighting applications on trucks, trailers and buses, many of which you can install yourself. If you find fixtures that are difficult to replace, our Peterbilt technicians have the equipment and expertise to do the job. If you notice an unusual number of lamps burning out, you may have electrical problems. A Peterbilt service technician can check your alternator for proper functioning.

Wishing all drivers a safe trip every time and bright lights along the way!