

# NSC DAILY VEHICLE TRIP INSPECTION

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## **GOALS OF THE STANDARD**

The daily vehicle trip inspection standard is intended to ensure early identification of vehicle problems and defects, and to prevent the operation of vehicles with conditions that are likely to cause or contribute to a collision or vehicle breakdown.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Daily vehicle trip inspection is a continuous process designed to protect drivers and alert carriers to mechanical problems. The general objective of daily vehicle trip inspections is to promote an improved level of safety and compliance in commercial vehicles operating on the highway.

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## **APPLICATION**

All motor carriers and drivers operating commercial vehicles as defined in the NSC.

Some jurisdictions may exempt certain types of vehicles from the requirements of this standard. To determine whether any specific vehicle is exempted, please contact the appropriate jurisdiction in which travel is intended.

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## **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

**Commercial Vehicle:** (As defined in NSC) A truck, tractor or trailer or combination thereof exceeding a registered gross vehicle weight of 4 500 kg, or a bus designed, constructed and used for the transportation of passengers with a designated seating capacity of more than 10, including the driver, but excluding the operation for personal use.

**Inspector:** (As defined in NSC) A person duly authorized to enforce federal or provincial statutes related to the Code.

**Motor Carrier:** (As defined in NSC) A person who owns, leases or is responsible for the operation of a commercial vehicle for the purpose of transporting passengers or goods.

**Motor Coach:** means a bus of 'monocoque' design, manufactured to provide intercity, suburban, commuter or charter service and equipped with under-floor baggage storage.

# NSC Standard 13: Trip Inspections

## Part 1 – General Requirements

### *(1) Vehicles to be inspected*

No motor carrier shall permit a person and no person shall drive or operate a commercial vehicle on a highway unless the vehicle is inspected as required.

### *(2) Carrier to issue inspection schedules*

Motor carriers shall provide the applicable schedule(s) of inspection items in a written or an equivalent electronic format and all vehicles shall be inspected in accordance with the schedule(s).

### *(3) Driver to carry and surrender schedules*

Drivers of a commercial vehicle shall have in their possession the applicable schedule(s) of inspection items and shall provide the schedules on demand of an inspector.

### *(4) Required inspections (when operated)*

- (a) Trucks, tractors and trailers shall be inspected in accordance with Schedule 1 every 24 hours.
- (b) Buses and any attached trailer<sup>1</sup> shall be inspected in accordance with Schedule 2 every 24 hours, or alternatively in the case of motor coaches equipped with air ride suspension and automatic brake adjusters, in accordance with Schedule 3 every 24 hours and at least every 30 days or 12,000 km (whichever comes first) in accordance with:
  - i. Schedule 4, or
  - ii. an equivalent maintenance program approved by the jurisdiction that complies with Schedule 4 requirements.

### *(5) Report to be completed*

- (a) A person conducting an inspection in accordance with Schedule 1 or 2 or 3 shall prepare a report in a written or an equivalent electronic format that contains the following information:
  - i. licence plate or unit number(s) of the vehicle(s);
  - ii. motor carrier's name;
  - iii. date and time of inspection;
  - iv. city, town, village or highway location where the inspection was performed;
  - v. a statement signed by the person conducting the inspection and by the person driving the vehicle (if different than the person inspecting the vehicle) that the vehicle(s) identified on the report has(have) been inspected in accordance with applicable requirements;
  - vi. the legible printed name of the person conducting the inspection; and
  - vii. odometer reading (if equipped).
- (b) A person conducting an inspection in accordance with subsection 4 (b) i or ii shall prepare a report in a written or an equivalent electronic format that contains the following information:
  - i. licence plate, VIN or unit number(s) of the vehicle(s);
  - ii. motor carrier's name;
  - iii. date(s) of inspection;
  - iv. location(s) where the inspection was performed;
  - v. a statement that the vehicle(s) identified on the report has(have) been inspected in accordance with applicable Schedule 4 requirements;
  - vi. the legible printed name of the person(s) conducting the inspection;
  - vii. the signature of the person(s) conducting the inspection;
  - viii. odometer reading(s).

### *(6) Report to be carried*

No motor carrier shall permit and no person shall drive a commercial vehicle on a highway unless that person is in possession of the required inspection report(s).

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<sup>1</sup> A trailer towed by a bus shall always be inspected in accordance with Schedule 2.

***(7) Driver to provide report***

A driver of a commercial vehicle shall provide a paper or equivalent electronic copy<sup>2</sup> of the required inspection report(s) on demand of an inspector.

***(8) When no defects are detected***

When no defects are detected during an inspection, the person conducting the inspection shall record that fact on the inspection report(s).

***(9) When defects are detected***

A person conducting an inspection in accordance with Schedules 1, 2 or 3 shall record on the inspection report any defects detected during the inspection and shall report such defects to the motor carrier or a person appointed by the motor carrier prior to the next required inspection.

***(10) Information to be recorded re: Schedule 4 inspections***

A person conducting an inspection in accordance with Schedule 4 shall record brake adjustment measurements, all defects detected during the inspection, and the nature of all repairs carried out.

***(11) Driver to monitor vehicle while driving***

While driving and/or otherwise being in charge of a commercial vehicle, the driver shall monitor its condition in accordance with the schedule of inspection items, and when defects are detected, the driver shall record the defects on the inspection report and report the defects to the motor carrier prior to the next required inspection.

***(12) Major defects to be reported immediately***

When major defects are detected or disclosed to the driver while driving or otherwise being in charge of a vehicle, they shall be recorded on the inspection report and reported to the motor carrier immediately.

***(13) Vehicle not to be operated with major defect***

No motor carrier shall permit a person and no person shall drive a commercial vehicle on a highway when a major defect is present on the vehicle.

***(14) Carrier to ensure defects are corrected***

Motor carriers shall ensure that all previously reported vehicle defects are corrected before the next required inspection or within a timeframe specified by the jurisdiction of travel.

***(15) Report to be given to carrier***

Drivers shall forward the original of each inspection report to the motor carrier who is responsible for the commercial vehicle within 20 calendar days of the completion of the report.

***(16) Carrier records***

Carriers shall retain the original copy of each vehicle inspection report and certification of repairs for at least 6 months from the date the report was prepared.

***(17) Schedule 4 inspections to be conducted by qualified person***

Schedule 4 inspections shall be conducted while the vehicle is positioned over a pit or raised in a manner that provides adequate access to all of the applicable components by a person who holds the technician certification or qualification required in the jurisdiction.

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<sup>2</sup> The requirement for equivalent electronic copies should be the same as the Hours of Service requirements.