

Fleet: Maintenance of vehicles

Maintenance of commercial motor vehicles or farm vehicles

Proper maintenance of commercial and farm vehicles is both a regulatory requirement under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and essential for safe, efficient operations. Regular upkeep can help prevent unexpected downtime and reduce accident risks due to malfunctions. This document highlights key requirements under FMCSA parts **393.201**, **393.207**, and **393.209** for owners and drivers.

Frames: Part 393.201

- The frame or chassis of each commercial motor vehicle shall not be cracked, loose, sagging or broken.
- Bolts or brackets securing the cab or the body of the vehicle to the frame must not be loose, broken, or missing.
- The frame rail flanges between the axles shall not be bent, cut or notched, except as specified by the manufacturer.
- Parts and accessories shall not be welded to the frame or chassis of a commercial motor vehicle except in accordance with the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations. Any welded repair of the frame must also be in accordance with the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations.
- No holes shall be drilled in the top or bottom rail flanges, except as specified by the manufacturer.



Suspensions: Part 393.207

- **Axles.** No axle positioning part shall be cracked, broken, loose or missing. All axles must be in proper alignment.



- **Adjustable axles.** Adjustable axle assemblies shall not have locking pins missing or disengaged.
- **Leaf springs.** No leaf spring shall be cracked, broken, or missing nor shifted out of position.
- **Coil springs.** No coil spring shall be cracked or broken.

Steering: Part 393.209

The steering wheel shall be secured and must not have any spokes cracked through or missing.

- **Steering column.** The steering column must be securely fastened.
- **Steering system.** Universal joints and ball-and-socket joints shall not be worn, faulty or repaired by welding. The steering gear box shall not have loose or missing mounting bolts or cracks in the gear box or mounting brackets. The pitman arm on the steering gear output shaft shall not be loose. Steering wheels shall turn freely through the limit of travel in both directions.
- **Power steering systems.** All components of the power system must be in operating condition. No parts shall be loose or broken. Belts shall not be frayed, cracked or slipping. The system shall not leak. The power steering system shall have sufficient fluid in the reservoir.



For further guidance, refer to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration 49 CFR Part 393 (ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-393).



For assistance with risk management services or safety resources, contact us at RMSolutions@nationwide.com or 1-800-260-1356.