

Fleet: Commercial motor vehicle inspector qualifications

Qualifications for performing inspections of commercial motor vehicles

Under Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulation [49 CFR 396.17](#) (non-passenger), a motor carrier may perform the required annual inspection for vehicles under the carrier's control which are not subject to an inspection under [49 CFR 396.23 \(b\) \(1\)](#), a state mandatory inspection program.

Motor carriers must ensure that individuals/employees performing periodic/annual inspections under [49 CFR 396.19](#) are qualified as follows:

- Understand the inspection criteria set forth in [49 CFR 393](#) and appendix G of this subchapter and can identify defective components;
- Are knowledgeable of and have mastered the methods, procedures, tools and equipment used when performing an inspection; and
- Can perform an inspection by reason of experience, training, or both as follows:
 - Successfully completed a Federal- or State-sponsored training program or have a certificate from a State or Canadian Province that qualifies the individuals to perform commercial motor vehicle safety inspections, or
 - Have a combination of training or experience totaling at least 1 year. Such training or experience may consist of:
 - Participation in a commercial motor vehicle manufacturer-sponsored training program or similar commercial training program designed to train students in commercial motor vehicle operation and maintenance;
 - Experience as a mechanic or inspector in a motor carrier or intermodal equipment maintenance program;
 - Experience as a mechanic or inspector in commercial motor vehicle maintenance at a commercial garage, fleet leasing company, or similar facility; or
 - Experience as a commercial motor vehicle inspector for a State, Provincial or Federal government.

Motor carriers must retain evidence of that individual's qualifications under this section. They must retain this evidence for the period during which that individual performs periodic/annual motor vehicle inspections for the motor carrier and for one year thereafter. However, motor carriers do not have to maintain documentation of inspector qualifications for those inspections performed as part of a State periodic inspection program.

Use this [FMCSA Certification of Inspector Qualification](#) form for your records.

For further guidance, refer to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration [49 CFR 396.19](#) (ecfr.gov/current/title-49/section-396.19).



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