

Trip Preparation Tips

For safety, each commercial motor vehicle must have:

- Adequately-charged and appropriately-rated fire extinguisher
- Spare electrical fuses
- Red reflective triangles (3) to be used as warning devices when stopped
- Jumper cables
- Toolkit
- First aid kit



During the winter, a few extra items are necessary to ensure safety, including:

- Ice scraper/snow brush tool
- Shovel
- Traction devices, such as a snow sock or truck claw for tires
- Blankets
- Brightly-colored flag or piece of fabric
- Extra food, water, and medication (if needed)
- Winter weather outerwear, such as a coat, snow pants, hat, gloves, and boots

In addition to the requirements for safety, drivers are also required to carry:

- Driver's license
- Medical card and waiver
- Daily logs
- Hours of service documentation
- Pre-trip vehicle and driver inspection reports
- Hazmat endorsements, if applicable
- Vehicle registration and insurance documentation

During the most thorough DOT inspection, which is referred to as the North American Standard Inspection, the inspector will check for documentation, assess the driver for impairment, and inspect the commercial vehicle. Drivers can expect the vehicle inspection to include a check of these items, which can take up to 60 minutes to complete.

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| • Seat belts | • Windshield wipers | • Cargo securement |
| • Brakes and brake lamps | • Headlamps | • Safe loading |
| • Coupling devices | • Lamps on projecting loads | • Trailer bodies |
| • Exhaust systems | • Reflective tape | • Wheels, rims, and hubcaps |
| • Emergency exits | • Turn signals | • Tail lamps |
| • Electrical cables | • Steering wheel | • Stop lamps |
| • Suspension | • Fuel systems | • Horn |
| • Tires | • Frame | • Mirrors |

For more help with compliance, please refer to the [CVSA Roadside Inspection Vehicle Cheat Sheet](#) and implement the [West Bend Mutual Motor Vehicle Safety Condition Report](#) into your operations.

