



## What is the North American Standard Inspection Program?

The North American Standard Inspection Program was created by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) as the roadside inspection process for inspecting commercial motor vehicles and drivers throughout North America.

The program was developed to improve the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles by establishing a uniform and reciprocal roadside inspection and enforcement process of commercial motor vehicles. The program outlines minimum inspection procedures, standards and requirements, and ensures consistency in compliance, inspections and enforcement, while minimizing duplication of efforts and unnecessary operating delays for the motor carrier industry.

The North American Standard Inspection Program identifies critical inspection items and unsafe conditions that place vehicles and/or drivers out of service through a uniform inspection process.

## Who conducts North American Standard Inspections?

Inspections are conducted by certified local, state, provincial, territorial and federal law enforcement personnel. The term “certified” means the government employee performing inspections and/or affixing CVSA decals has successfully completed a CVSA-approved training program.

## What are the levels of North American Standard Inspections?

- **Level I** is a 37-step inspection procedure that involves examination of the motor carrier’s and driver’s credentials, record of duty status, the mechanical condition of the vehicle and any hazardous materials/dangerous goods that may be present.
- **Level II** is a driver and walk-around vehicle inspection, involving the inspection of items that can be checked without physically getting under the vehicle.
- **Level III** is a driver-only inspection that includes examination of the driver’s credentials and documents.
- **Level IV** special inspections are a one-time examination of a particular item. These examinations are normally made in support of a study or to verify or refute a suspected trend.
- **Level V** is a vehicle-only inspection which may be performed without a driver present, at any location.
- **Level VI** is a specialized inspection of transuranic waste and highway route controlled quantities of radioactive material.
- **Level VII** is a jurisdictionally mandated inspection.
- **Level VIII** is an inspection conducted electronically or wirelessly while the vehicle is in motion, without direct interaction with an inspector.

## What is a CVSA decal?

A CVSA decal is a colored sticker featuring the year in which the inspection was performed, along with the CVSA trademarked logo. The decal identifies vehicles that have recently passed an inspection so that inspection efforts are not duplicated and inspectors can focus more attention on vehicles not yet inspected.



The year of issuance is indicated with the last number of the calendar year (e.g., 2019 is indicated by the number “9”), with the CVSA trademark logo directly below the year.

The quarter in which an inspection was performed is indicated by the color of the decal issued. Green decals are issued in January, February or March. Yellow decals are issued in April, May or June. Orange decals are issued in July, August or September. And white decals are issued in October, November or December.

CVSA decals affixed on the first month of a new calendar quarter will have both upper corners removed. Those issued during the second month of the same quarter will have the upper right corner removed. No corners are removed from decals issued during the last month of a calendar quarter.

Affixed CVSA decals are valid for the month of issuance plus two months. For example, a CVSA decal issued on July 28, 2019, will expire on Sept. 30, 2019.

## How does a vehicle qualify for a CVSA decal?

A commercial motor vehicle qualifies for a CVSA decal when it passes a Level I, Level V or Level VI Inspection. A vehicle will pass inspection when no critical vehicle inspection items are found with violations of the regulations during inspection. If no critical vehicle inspection item violations are detected during the eligible inspections, a CVSA decal is applied. However, when a required rear impact guard is inspected during a North American Standard Level I or V Inspection, a CVSA decal shall not be issued if violations are present.

**Note:** The CVSA decal criteria apply only to critical vehicle inspection items outlined in the North American Out-of-Service Criteria for the condition of the vehicle, not the driver. It is possible for a driver to be out of service and the vehicle may still receive a CVSA decal.

## How does my cargo tank qualify for a CVSA decal?

When a U.S. DOT/Transport Canada specification cargo tank inspection is completed in conjunction with a North American Standard Level I or Level V Inspection and it passes inspection, a CVSA decal will be applied.

Cargo tanks with violations of these items will not receive a CVSA decal: retest requirements, cargo tank authorization (does not include specification shortages), manhole covers, internal valves, discharge valves, cargo tank integrity, supports and anchoring, double bulkhead drains, ring stiffeners, rear-end protection, emergency flow control, piping and protection, overturn protection and venting.



## Will my vehicle still be inspected if it received a CVSA decal?

Generally, vehicles displaying a valid CVSA decal will not be re-inspected during the three-month timeframe in which the decal is valid, unless:

- A critical vehicle inspection item violation or North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria condition is detected.
- A Level IV Inspection (special inspection) is to be conducted.
- A statistically based random inspection technique is being employed to validate an individual jurisdiction or regional out-of-service percentage.

**Note:** If a violation of a critical vehicle inspection item is discovered during an inspection, any valid CVSA decal will be removed.

## Can I request a North American Standard Inspection for my vehicle?

The North American Standard Inspection Program is not a periodic inspection program or a preventative maintenance program for carriers and drivers. Inspectors do not inspect vehicles by request.

## What are the out-of-service critical vehicle inspection items?

Critical vehicle inspection items associated with the following systems, devices, components, items or parts will result in the commercial motor vehicle being placed out of service: brake systems; cargo securement; coupling devices; driveline/driveshaft; driver’s seat (missing); exhaust systems; frames; fuel systems; lighting devices (headlamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, turn signals and lamps/flags on projecting loads); steering mechanisms; suspensions; tires; van and open-top trailer bodies; wheels, rims and hubs; windshield wipers. Additional items on buses, motorcoaches, passenger vans or other passenger-carrying vehicles include emergency exits, electrical cables and systems in engine and battery compartments and seating (temporary and aisle seats).

## What are the out-of-service driver conditions?

Drivers found to be in violation of operating without the proper driver credentials, in possession of drugs or alcohol, or in violation of hours-of-service rules may be placed out of service.

## Is a CVSA decal required for Mexico-domiciled motor carriers?

Mexico-domiciled motor carriers authorized to operate within the U.S.-Mexico border commercial zones are not required to display a CVSA inspection decal. However, Mexico-domiciled motor carriers authorized to operate beyond the U.S.-Mexico border commercial zones are required to display a valid CVSA inspection decal on the power unit during the provisional authority period and for three years after receiving standard authority.