

# Brake Safety Week: How CMV Drivers Can Prepare

If you haven't checked all the components of your truck's brake system recently, now is the time to get it done.

From August 21 – 27, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) will conduct its annual **Brake Safety Week**. Law enforcement officers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico will perform Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) inspections in search of brake system violations. Here's how you can prepare:

## What to expect

Inspections will take place at fixed weigh stations, temporary pop-up inspection sites and roving roadway patrols.

## What happens if inspectors find a brake problem?

Your vehicle will be placed out of service (OOS).

## What's my risk of getting a brake-related OOS?

During last year's Brake Safety Week, law enforcement officers completed 28,694 inspections in the U.S. alone. Roughly 4,200 of those vehicles (13.5%) received a brake-related OOS violation. In April 2022, the CVSA inspected 9,132 CMVs during an unannounced Brake Safety Day. Nearly 1,300 vehicles (14.1%) inspected that day received a brake-related OOS violation.

## What is the focus area for inspectors?

Inspectors will check all components of brake systems, with a particular focus on **brake hose/tubing chafing violations**.

## How can I make sure I pass a brake inspection?

The best way to ensure a fully functional and safe braking system is to establish and enforce a routine inspection schedule. It's equally important to ensure your drivers are properly trained and understand their responsibility to complete the required pre, during, and post-trip inspections. In addition, the CVSA also recommends drivers take these 10 steps:

**1. Inspect brake hoses and tubing** during pre-trip and post-trip inspections.



**2. Report any brake issues** in your driver vehicle inspection reports.

**3. Look for brake hoses** that rub or rest against the tires, frame, steering, suspension, brakes or other components.

**4. Watch out for kinked** or improperly repaired brake hoses.

**5. Listen for air leaks.** If you hear one, find the location of the leak and repair it before leaving.

**6. Don't let air lines** hang down or touch the tractor deck or frame.

**7. If you see air hoses or tubing that rub or rest against other components,** check for abrasion wear, and protect, secure or move the hose to prevent wear.

**8. Look for brake hose/tubing chafing.** If chafing reduces the diameter of a hose, or if the secondary white color is visible in a thermoplastic hose, it's an OOS violation. Replace the hose immediately.

**9. Watch for worn brake hoses.** If a hose is worn so that the reinforcement ply is cut or abraded, it's an OOS violation. Replace the hose immediately.

**10. Make sure all repairs** meet manufacturer's requirements and guidelines.

Properly maintained brakes save lives, especially in split-second emergency situations. Keep your vehicle's brakes in good working order during Brake Safety Week and all year long.