

## Table of Contents

Preface

Introduction

Recent Changes

Interactive Spreadsheets, Self-Audits, Checklists, and Policies

Interactive documents

CSA

+ Overview

+ Interventions

+ Safety Management Cycle

+ Roadside inspections

+ Safety rating

+ Enforcement trends

Unsafe Driving

+ CSA scoring

+ Self-audits

+ Policies & procedures

+ Tools

+ Hours of Service

+ Driver Fitness

+ Drugs & Alcohol

+ Vehicle & Cargo

+ Hazmat

+ Crash Indicator

+ Administrative

+ Authority

+ Financial responsibility

+ UCR

+ IFTA/IRP

+ Resources

+ Part 385

+ Part 386

+ Proposals

+ Agency contacts

+ Online Extras

+ Electronic logging devices  
frequently asked questions



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# DOT ENFORCEMENT ESSENTIALS MANUAL

## Introduction

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrations (FMCSA) has a mission statement to reduce the number of commercial motor vehicle related crashes. It is not surprising that the agency relies heavily on enforcement and crash data to determine its level of success, and that of motor carriers.



The agency employs a statistical strategy — through its Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) enforcement model — to assist in identifying high-risk carriers. FMCSA theorizes that past behavior is a predictor of future crashes, thus allowing the agency an opportunity to work with high-risk motor carriers to achieve a higher level of safety before an accident occurs — or before having to place the company out of service.

This manual was designed to assist motor carriers in understanding the complexities surrounding the CSA enforcement program, including the scoring methodology. It also aids motor carriers in compliance efforts on and off the road, since both are directly linked to the CSA program. The segments on roadside inspections will help equip both the carrier and driver for daily roadside inspections and annual enforcement campaigns such as International Roadcheck, brake safety week, and the like.

This manual is segmented based on categories of regulations (used by FMCSA for CSA) called Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS). Using this presentation of materials, motor carriers are able to use the manual to maintain — and strengthen — specific areas of their safety programs. Each contains an explanation of the CSA methodology, a self-audit, an explanation of recordkeeping requirements, and tools to enhance safety management controls as they relate to the BASIC. The ultimate goal is to have checks and balances in place to reduce the number of violations of the safety regulations, demonstrating to FMCSA your low likelihood to be in a motor carrier crash.

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