

Periodic Inspection 396.17

Every commercial vehicle, including each segment of a combination vehicle requires periodic inspection that must be performed at least once every 12 months. At a minimum, inspections must include all items enumerated in the Minimum Periodic Inspection Standards, Appendix G to Subchapter B. Carriers may perform required annual inspections themselves. The original or a copy of the periodic inspection report must be retained by the motor carrier for 14 months from the report date.

Documentation of Inspection 396.21/396.23

Documentation (report, sticker, or decal) of the most recent periodic inspection must be kept on the vehicle.

Inspector Qualification 396.25

Motor carriers must ensure that persons performing annual inspections are qualified. Inspectors must:

- understand the inspection standards of Part 393 and Appendix G
- be able to identify defective components
- have knowledge and proficiency in methods, procedures, and tools

Inspector Training or Experience

Inspectors may have gained experience or training by:

- completing a State or Federal training program, or earning a State or Canadian Province qualifying certificate in commercial motor vehicle safety inspections
- a combination of other training or experience totaling at least a year

Evidence of Qualifications

Motor carriers must retain evidence of an inspector's qualifications until one year after the inspector ceases to perform inspections for the carrier.

Equivalent to Periodic Inspection

The motor carrier may meet periodic inspection requirements through:

- State or other jurisdiction's roadside inspection program;
- Self-inspection by qualified employee; or
- Third-party inspection by qualified individual

Brake Inspector Qualification

The motor carrier is responsible for ensuring that all inspections, maintenance, repairs, and service to brakes of commercial motor vehicles comply with these regulations. The carrier must ensure that the employees responsible for brake inspection, maintenance, service, or repairs meet minimum brake inspector qualifications.

Qualifications for Brake Inspectors 396.25

The brake inspector must:

- understand and be able to perform the brake service and inspection;
- know the methods, procedures, tools and equipment needed; and
- be qualified to perform brake service or inspection by training and/or experience.

Qualifying Brake Training or Experience 396.25

Qualifying brake training or experience includes successful completion of:

- a State, Canadian Province, Federal agency, or union training program,
- a State-approved training program,
- training that led to attainment of a State or Canadian Province qualifying certificate to perform assigned brake service or inspection tasks, including passage of CDL air brake test in the case of a brake inspection, or
- one year of brake-related training, experience, or combination of both.

Maintaining Evidence of Brake Inspector Qualifications

Motor carriers must maintain evidence of brake inspector qualification at the principal place of business or the location where the inspector works. Evidence must be retained for the period during which the brake inspector is employed in that capacity, and for one year thereafter.