



Safety Improvement Categories (**BASICs**)

The Safety Measurement System (SMS) assesses carriers in each of seven BASICs below.

1. **Unsafe Driving – (Page 2)**

- A driver operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in a dangerous or careless manner.

2. **Crash Indicator – (Page 3)**

- A history or pattern of crash involvement, including the frequency and severity of those crashes.

3. **Hours-of-Service – (Page 4)**

- A driver driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while ill, fatigued, or in violation of the hours-of-service rules.

4. **Vehicle Maintenance – (Page 5)**

- A driver operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) that has unsecured cargo or critical safety defects due to improper or inadequate maintenance.

5. **Controlled Substance and Alcohol – (Page 6)**

- A driver operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, or impaired due to alcohol, illegal drugs, or misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

6. **Driver Fitness – (Page 7)**

- A driver operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) despite being unfit to drive due to a lack of training, experience, and/or medical qualifications.

7. **Hazardous Materials Compliance – (Page 8)**

- The unsafe and non-compliant handling of hazardous materials on a commercial motor vehicle (CMV).

UNSAFE DRIVING

WHAT IS UNSAFE DRIVING?

A driver operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in a dangerous or careless manner.

HOW IS UNSAFE DRIVING MEASURED?

Using violations of certain federal safety rules and state traffic laws recorded during roadside inspections and traffic enforcement during the past 3 years.

This is a **stand-alone** BASIC – a failing grade in this BASIC alone could have serious consequences.

HOW WILL UNSAFE DRIVING AFFECT ME?

Besides the obvious risk to public safety, if a drivers' personal record includes violations for unsafe driving (even if they weren't placed out of service), a drivers' safety ranking – and that of the carriers – will be affected. This could lead to a response from the FMCSA, ranging from warning letter to more roadside inspections, a complete audit, or worse. The more violations, the higher the BASIC score and the more likely the FMCSA will intervene.

Your grade on this BASIC will be updated every 30 days. When measuring a carrier's performance, the FMCSA will consider:

- Violations from the past 24 months.
- The types of violations committed.
- The age of the violations – more recent violations bear more weight.

EXAMPLES OF UNSAFE DRIVING & SEVIRITY?

Speeding (**10pts**), Reckless Driving (**10pts**), Improper lane changes or turns (**5pts**), Following too close (**5pts**), Failed to yield right of way (**5pts**), Driving without seatbelt (**7pts**), Driving a CMV while texting (**10pts**)

CRASH INDICATOR

WHAT IS CRASH HISTORY?

A history or pattern of crash involvement, including the frequency and severity of those crashes.

Unlike the other BASICS, crash history is not based on a set of behaviors. Rather, it is a consequence of behavior and may indicate a problem that needs attention.

HOW IS CRASH HISTORY MEASURED?

Using crash data reported by state and local enforcement agencies over the past 3 years.

HOW WILL CRASH HISTORY AFFECT ME?

If you're driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) and are involved in a reportable crash – whether you were at fault or not – information about that crash will be sent to the FMCSA and will be attributed to both driver and company. Driver crash record will follow them from employer to employer.

The more crashes a driver and the carrier experience, the worse a carrier's score on the Crash Indicator BASIC and the more likely it is the FMCSA will intervene to find out what everyone might be doing wrong. If there's a fatal accident, the FMCSA will likely show up for a complete audit.

Your grade on this BASIC is updated every 30 days. When measuring a carrier's performance, the FMCSA will consider:

- Reportable crashes from the past 24 months. If a carrier has experienced fewer than 2 crashes in the past 2 years or no crashes in the past 12 months, then they will not be scored on his BASIC.
- Crash severity – crashes involving injury, a fatality, or a release of hazardous materials have a higher severity weight than others.

EXAMPLES OF CRASH TYPE SEVERITY & WEIGHT BY AGE?

Injury or fatality with hazmat release (**3pts**), Injuries or fatalities (**2pts**), Tow-away with hazmat release (**2pts**), Tow-away with no injuries or fatalities (**1pt**)

Age of crash 24-36 months (**1**), 12-24 months (**2**), within last 12 months (**3**).

HOURS-OF-SERVICE

WHAT IS AN HOURS-OF-SERVICE VIOLATION?

A driver driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while ill, fatigued, or in violation of the hours-of-service rules.

HOW IS HOS COMPLIANCE MEASURED?

Using violations of Parts 392 and 395 recorded during roadside driver inspections during the past 3 years.

This is a **stand-alone** BASIC – a failing grade in this BASIC alone could have serious consequences.

HOW DOES HOS COMPLIANCE AFFECT ME?

A history of hours-of service violations (even if the driver was not placed out of service, and even if a driver has switched employers) will affect CSA score of the company. This could lead to contact from the FMCSA, ranging from a warning letter to a document review to a complete audit, or worse. The more violations, the higher the BASIC score and the more likely the FMCSA will intervene.

Your score on this BASIC is updated every 30 days. When measuring your carrier's performance, the FMCSA considers:

- Violations from the past 24 months.
- The types of violations committed – some are worse than others.
- The age of the violations – more recent violations bear more weight.
- The number of inspections – the more “clean” inspections the better.

EXAMPLES OF HOS COMPLIANCE VIOLATIONS & SEVERITY?

Operating a CMV while ill or fatigued (**10pts**), Violating a fatigue-related out-of-service order (**10pts**), Violating any federal or state hours-of-service limits (**7pts**), Falsifying logs (**7pts**), Failing to complete a log, or logging improperly (**5pts**), Failing to keep log current (**5pts**), Failing to retain previous 7 days' logs (**5pts**), Violating a log “form & manner” rule (**1pt**), Violating an on-board recorded requirement (**5pts**).

Note: Being placed out of service increases the severity by 2 points.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

WHAT IS CONSIDERED A VEHICLE MAINTENANCE VIOLATION?

A driver operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) that has unsecured cargo or critical safety defects due to improper or inadequate maintenance.

HOW IS VEHICLE MAINTENANCE MEASURED?

Using violations of federal safety rules recorded during roadside vehicle inspections during the past 3 years. A failure to inspect and maintain vehicles or secure cargo properly is considered a critically important violation that can have serious consequences for a carrier.

HOW WILL IMPROPER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AFFECT ME?

Under CSA, vehicle maintenance and cargo securement are shared responsibilities between a driver and the carrier. Violations for failing to inspect and maintain a CMV or failing to secure cargo will harm CSA scoring for both driver and carrier, which could lead the FMCSA to step in. As a result, the driver and/or the carrier could be warned, audited, fined, and/or ordered to fix the problems. The more violations, the higher the Vehicle Maintenance BASIC score and the more likely FMCSA will intervene, even if a driver switches employers.

Your score on this BASIC is updated every 30 days. When measuring your carrier's performance, the FMCSA considers:

- Violations from the past 24 months.
- The types of violations committed – some are worse than others.
- The number of vehicle inspections – the more “clean” inspections the better.
- The age of the violations – more recent violations bear more weight. Violations from the past 12 months are *THREE* times as damaging.

EXAMPLES OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS & SEVERITY?

Violating a vehicle out-of-service order (**10pts**), Violating the tire standards (**8pts**), Improper load securement & Suspension-related violations (**7pts**), Violating the lighting standards & Steering-related violations (**6pts**), No pre-trip inspections, Brake-related violations & No daily post-trip inspection report (**4pts**), Reflective sheeting/reflector violations, Defective coupling device & Underinflated tire or excessive load on tire (**3pts**).

Note: Being placed out of service increases the severity by 2 points.

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

WHAT IS A DRUG OR ALCOHOL VIOLATION?

A driver operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, or impaired due to alcohol, illegal drugs, or misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

HOW IS THE DRUG & ALCOHOL BASIC MEASURED?

Using violations of federal safety rules 392.4 and 392.5, as recorded during roadside driver inspections during the past 3 years. Prevention of drug and alcohol violations is among the “essential” safety management controls that a company must have in place, and drug and alcohol violations are among the “fundamental” violations that can result in an automatic failing grade.

HOW WILL DRUG & ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS AFFECT ME?

If a drivers' record includes violations of the drug and alcohol rules, CSA scores of both the driver and carriers will be damaged. The result could be intervention by the FMCSA, including more roadside inspections, an audit, or even out-of-service order. The more violations, the higher the BASIC score and the more likely the FMCSA will take action.

Your score on this BASIC is updated every 30 days. When measuring your carrier's performance, the FMCSA considers:

- Drug/Alcohol violations from the past 24 months.
- The types of violations committed – some bear more weight than others.
- The age of the violations – more recent violations bear more weight. Violations from the past 12 months are *THREE* times as damaging.

WHICH DRUGS ARE INCLUDED?

Drivers' are prohibited from possessing, being under the influence of, or using any of these substances: Any “Schedule I” substance as listed in 21 CFR., any amphetamine or related substances, narcotic drugs or derivative of a narcotic, or any other substance that makes you incapable of safely operating a motor vehicle.

EXAMPLES OF DRUG & ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS & SEVERITY?

Violating an out-of-service order (**10pts**), Using/possessing controlled substances (**10pts**), Possessing/using/under influence of alcohol within 4 hours (**5pts**), & while on duty (**3pts**).

DRIVER FITNESS

WHAT IS A DRIVER FITNESS VIOLATION?

A driver operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) despite being unfit to drive due to a lack of training, experience, and/or medical qualifications.

HOW IS DRIVER FITNESS MEASURED?

Using violations of federal safety rules recorded during roadside driver inspections in the past 3 years. Ensuring driver fitness is among the "essential" safety management controls that a company must have in place.

HOW DOES DRIVER FITNESS AFFECT ME?

A driver driving a CMV without being properly qualified or licensed will hurt both the drivers and carrier's safety grade. This could lead to intervention by the FMCSA, ranging from a warning letter to being ordered to shut down. The more violations, the higher the BASIC score and the more likely the FMCSA will intervene.

Your score on this BASIC is updated every 30 days. When measuring your carrier's performance, the FMCSA considers:

- Violations from the past 24 months.
- The types of violations committed – some are worse than others.
- The number of inspections – the more "clean" inspections the better.
- The age of the violations – more recent violations bear more weight. Violations from the past 12 months are *THREE* times as damaging.

EXAMPLES OF DRIVER FITNESS VIOLATIONS & SEVERITY?

Failing to comply with an out-of-service order (**10pts**), Driving a CMV with more than one driver's license (**8pts**), Driving a CMV without a CDL (**8pts**), Learner's permit violations (**8pts**), Driving a CMV while disqualified or unqualified (**8pts**), CDL endorsement violations (**8pts**), Incorrect license type (**8pts**), Driving a CMV under age 21 (**4pts**), Failing the English language standard (**4pts**), Lacking physical qualifications (**2pts**), No medical certificate (**1pt**).

Note: Being placed out of service increases the severity by 2 points.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WHAT IS A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HM) VIOLATION UNDER CSA?

The unsafe and non-compliant handling of hazardous materials on a commercial motor vehicle (CMV).

HOW IS THE (HM) COMPLIANCE BASIC MEASURED?

Using violations of certain federal safety and hazardous materials regulations as recorded during roadside vehicle inspections over the past 3 years, where placardable quantities of HM were being transported.

HOW WILL IMPROPER (HM) HANDLING AFFECT ME?

Aside from the potentially extreme dangers involved, the improper handling of hazardous materials can affect both the drivers' and carriers' – CSA scores, which could get the attention of the FMCSA. This could lead to a warning letter, more roadside inspections, an audit, or even an out-of-service order. The more violations, the higher the BASIC score and the higher the likelihood the FMCSA will intervene, even if a driver switches carriers.

Your score on this BASIC is updated every 30 days. When measuring your carrier's performance, the FMCSA considers:

- Violations from the past 24 months.
- The types of violations committed – some are worse than others.
- The number of inspections – the more “clean” inspections the better.
- The age of the violations – more recent violations bear more weight.

EXAMPLES OF (HM) COMPLIANCE VIOLATIONS & SEVERITY?

Improper HM load securement (**10 pts**), Transporting HM on a bus or motorcoach (**10 pts**), HM package integrity violations (**8pts**), HM package testing violations (**7pts**), HM fire hazard violations (**6pts**), HM marking violations (**5pts**), HM cargo protection violations (**4pts**), HM documentation violations (**3pts**).

Note: Being placed out of service increases the severity by 2 points.