



Module 4: Vehicle Safety & Maintenance Systems

Keeping Equipment Roadworthy, Compliant, and Defensible

Module 4 focuses on one of the most visible and enforceable areas of motor carrier compliance: vehicle safety and maintenance.

This course provides a practical, system-based approach to inspection, maintenance, and documentation requirements under federal regulations, with emphasis on how roadside inspectors and auditors evaluate equipment condition and maintenance programs.

Course Overview

Vehicle-related violations remain one of the leading causes of out-of-service orders, roadside enforcement actions, and compliance review findings.

Module 4 teaches participants how to move beyond reactive repairs and instead manage intentional vehicle safety and maintenance systems that support regulatory compliance, operational reliability, and crash prevention.

Participants gain clarity on inspection standards, documentation requirements, and internal accountability—ensuring that drivers, maintenance personnel, and safety leadership are aligned around equipment safety expectations.

Who Should Attend

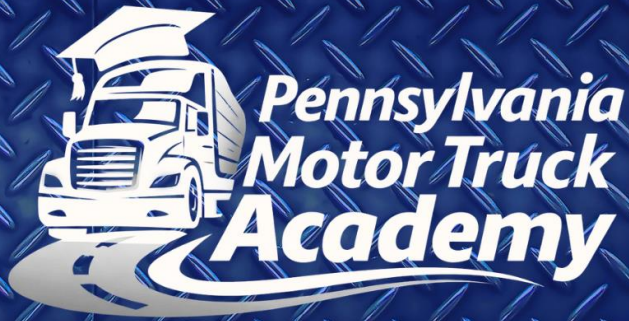
- Safety Managers and Directors
- Maintenance Supervisors and Fleet Managers
- Operations and Terminal Managers
- Compliance and Risk Professionals
- Company Owners and Executives

This module is especially valuable for organizations experiencing frequent roadside violations, recurring maintenance findings, or inconsistent inspection practices.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Explain federal vehicle inspection and maintenance requirements
- Identify common out-of-service violations and high-risk components
- Evaluate the effectiveness of preventive maintenance programs
- Manage DVIRs, repair documentation, and inspection records
- Align driver, maintenance, and safety responsibilities
- Prepare vehicle maintenance systems for audits and inspections



Topics Covered

- Regulatory requirements under 49 CFR Part 396
- Roadside inspection process and enforcement priorities
- Common out-of-service violations
 - Brakes, tires, lighting, steering, suspension
- Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports (DVIRs)
- Preventive maintenance program design
- Annual and periodic inspection requirements
- Maintenance recordkeeping and retention
- Managing repeat and systemic vehicle violations

Learning Activities

Module 4 emphasizes applied equipment safety management:

- **Inspection Scenario Walkthroughs**
Review real inspection findings and identify compliance gaps.
- **Maintenance File Review**
Evaluate sample maintenance records for completeness and audit readiness.
- **Violation Trend Analysis**
Identify patterns and discuss corrective action strategies.
- **Role Alignment Discussion**
Clarify responsibilities between drivers, maintenance, and safety teams.

Required Resources & References

- 49 CFR Part 396 – Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance
- FMCSA vehicle inspection and maintenance guidance
- CVSA Out-of-Service Criteria

(Resources are used to ground discussion in current enforcement standards.)

Assessment & Evaluation

- Participation in inspection and maintenance exercises
- Group discussion and applied problem-solving
- Review of sample documentation and records

Course Format

- Instructor-led, in-person classroom training
- Facilitated discussion and applied scenarios

Duration: 1 Day (8 Hours)

Certificate: Certificate of Completion



Why This Module Matters

Vehicle violations create immediate enforcement exposure and long-term safety risk.

Poorly managed maintenance programs lead to:

- Out-of-service orders
- Increased downtime and repair costs
- Negative audit outcomes
- Heightened crash and liability exposure

Module 4 gives carriers the tools to maintain equipment proactively, reduce enforcement risk, and ensure vehicles are safe, compliant, and ready for service.