



International Roadcheck

May 16-18, 2023 | ABS and Cargo Securement

This year's International Roadcheck will focus on the anti-lock braking system (ABS) and proper cargo securement on a commercial motor vehicle.

ABS

ABS violations are not out-of-service violations; however, the ABS plays a critical role in reducing collisions. A properly functioning ABS will prevent wheels from locking up or skidding, allowing a driver to maintain control of the vehicle while braking.

It is crucial for drivers to observe the diagnostic check during pre- and post-trip inspections to ensure the ABS is functioning properly. ABS lamps that fail to illuminate during the diagnostic check, or lamps that remain illuminated while in transit, indicate an ABS malfunction that must be repaired.



Cargo Securement

Improper or inadequate cargo securement accounted for 10.6% of the vehicle out-of-service violations during last year's International Roadcheck, and past International Roadcheck data routinely found cargo securement in the top five of vehicle out-of-service violations.

Improper cargo securement poses a serious risk to drivers and other motorists. Inadequate cargo securement may adversely affect the vehicle's maneuverability, or worse, cause unsecured cargo to fall into the roadway, resulting in traffic hazards and vehicle collisions. Drivers should verify proper securement and inspect tiedowns during their pre- and post-trip inspections, as well as periodically during their trip, to ensure the cargo remains secure.

During inspection of ABS on a commercial motor vehicle, inspectors will:

- ✓ Determine whether ABS is required on the vehicle(s).
- ✓ Ensure the ABS lamp cycles on and off for all ABS-required vehicles during the diagnostic check.
- ✓ Check for indications of an ABS malfunction, such as lamps remaining on during transit.

During inspection of cargo securement on a commercial motor vehicle, inspectors will:

- ✓ Ensure spare tires, loads, cargo and dunnage are secured and prevented from falling, blowing, spilling or leaking from the vehicle, or rolling or shifting in transit.
- ✓ Confirm there are enough tiedowns for the weight and length of the items being transported.
- ✓ Check for defective securement devices (e.g., loose, torn, damaged, bent, knotted tiedowns).
- ✓ Inspect anchor points and structures for damage.
- ✓ Verify commodity-specific cargo is secured in accordance with the regulations.