



# GENERAL ORDER

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

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<b>Chapter:</b> Operations	<b>Section:</b> 408.4	
<b>Subject:</b> Traffic	<b>Topic:</b> Motor Carrier Safety Unit	
<b>Accreditation:</b>	<b>Revised:</b>	<b>Reaffirmed:</b>
<b>Enacted:</b> 7/30/2015	<b>Last Review:</b> 7/24/2015	<b>Review:</b> 7/30/2016

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## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines for the enforcement and inspections of commercial motor vehicles that are subject to regulations set forth by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, under Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

## II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Motor Carrier Safety Unit to inspect and remove unsafe vehicles from the roadways of Loudoun County. As this task is performed, and the appropriate charges are pursued, the risk of accidents involving commercial motor vehicles where mechanical failure may have been a contributing factor should decrease; therefore increasing traffic safety in Loudoun County.

## III. ENFORCEMENT

- A. Deputies assigned to the Motor Carrier Safety Unit shall use a variety of techniques to ensure compliance with safety regulations and detect safety violations. These shall include:
1. Random patrols to detect unlawful vehicle operation, obvious defects, and unsecured cargo.
  2. Roadside inspection at locations approved by the Traffic Section Supervisor. These locations will be submitted by the members of the Motor Carrier Unit to the Traffic Section Supervisor. Locations will be submitted based on:
    - a. Road or shoulder design, and construction to support heavy vehicles
    - b. Vehicles to be stopped for inspection only on State or public owned roads
    - c. Due regard for public safety
    - d. A location that will afford approaching traffic ample time to realize a stop is imminent

## IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Only deputies that have successfully completed a U.S. Department of Transportation approved Motor Carrier Safety School, and maintain a current certification will conduct

motor carrier inspections. Wheel blocks shall be used when inspecting under a vehicle.

- B. If a vehicle is determined to have an unsafe violation that would deem it "Out of Service" by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance criteria, an "Out of Service" decal will be filled out noting the out of service violation(s) and will be placed on the vehicle.
- C. If an "Out of Service" decal is placed on the vehicle, the appropriate violation will be charged.
- D. In cases where it has been determined that the vehicle was driven prior to repairing the out of service violations, the license plates and registration may be seized in accordance with 46.2-1001, Code of Virginia. In those cases, the deputy will fill out Form L.C.S.O. /6.3, and a property card. The tags will be kept at the Motor Carrier Office.
- E. Inspection reports will be placed in a 15-day holding file awaiting the return of the "Certificate of Repair".
- F. All forms with the "Certificate of Repair" completed will be placed in a permanent file according to the company.
- G. If, after 15 days, the "Certificate of Repair" has not been received, a follow up investigation will be conducted, and appropriate action taken.
- H. When a vehicle is taken out of service that contains perishable commodity, it shall be the responsibility of the driver to make arrangements for the load to be taken care of, to ensure that no loss occurs.

V. RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTS

- A. During normal work hours, deputies assigned to the Motor Carrier Safety Unit shall respond to reportable accidents involving commercial motor vehicles, to assist in conducting a vehicle inspection.
- B. In all accidents involving serious injury or fatality that involve a commercial motor vehicle, a deputy from the Motor Carrier Safety Unit shall be contacted to conduct a vehicle inspection.