



Information for the News Media
Public Information Office
(512) 424-2080

June 7, 2004

DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Troopers Encourage Commercial Vehicle Safety During Roadcheck 2004

Highway safety in Texas will get an extra boost June 8 through 10 when Texas Department of Public Safety troopers participate in Roadcheck 2004, a 72-hour intensive commercial vehicle inspection program.

DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement troopers, along with Highway Patrol troopers who have received specialized training in commercial vehicle inspection, will be stopping commercial vehicles to inspect safety equipment, as well as checking driver licenses and endorsements. Troopers also will look for possible drug or alcohol use.

"We are pleased to participate in this international program to promote truck safety," said Chief Randy Elliston, head of the Texas Highway Patrol for DPS. "The Roadcheck program continues to make an impact on truck safety in Texas."

Last year, Roadcheck 2003 resulted in more than 3,558 vehicle inspections in Texas. The inspections found that 126 of the drivers and 900 of the vehicles had serious enough safety violations to be removed from service.

The Roadcheck program, which stretches from Mexico to Canada, is designed to reduce commercial vehicle highway fatalities through increased vehicle safety. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, which sponsors Roadcheck, reports a significant decrease in the commercial vehicle crash rate in North America since the program's start in 1988.

During Roadcheck 2003, more than 55,784 vehicles were inspected at almost 1,100 locations across North America. Of those vehicles, 22.7 percent were placed out-of-service because of safety violations, and 5 percent of the commercial drivers inspected were placed out-of-service for violations of federal safety regulations.

Vehicles passing inspection receive a CVSA decal exempting the vehicle from inspection for a 90-day period, unless they have an obvious safety defect.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance



Date: April 26, 2004
To: All CVSA Member Jurisdictions
From: CVSA Headquarters
Re: Roadcheck 2004



This is a follow up to previous messages and information for the Roadcheck and Operation Air Brake 2004 programs. The information outlined below, and in the attachments, provides the guidance and details for Roadcheck 2004 regarding the event, procedures, guidelines, data collection forms, reporting instructions, and other pertinent information.

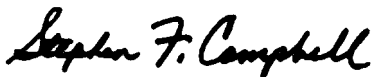
Roadcheck 2004

1. **Dates:** June 8-10, 2004 (Tuesday through Thursday).
2. **Location:** Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.
3. **Duration:** 72 continuous hours.
4. **Theme** *"Roadcheck 2004 – For Truck and Bus Safety and Security Throughout North America"*
5. **Focus:** CVSA Level I Inspections with jurisdictions having the flexibility to conduct other inspections in extenuating circumstances.
6. **Additional focus areas:** Safety Belts, security, intermodal equipment and cargo tanks. All jurisdictions are requested to collect data on safety belt violations, and to use their discretion on participating in the other 3 areas (resources permitting). See the attached guidelines for additional details.
7. Similar to last year, CVSA has included generic invitations for you to "tailor" for your own needs in order to engage your local media and industry representatives. These "Media Kits" include guidelines for dealing with the media and invitation letters/address labels of CVSA Associate Members in your area. While you're not required to use the information, it is being provided to promote uniformity and consistency in message and to more actively involve the industry in Roadcheck 2004.

8. **Media Event:** CVSA is working with the Arkansas Highway Police, FMCSA, NHTSA and other organizations on the Roadcheck Kickoff event. It will be held at 11am on June 7 at the I-40WB Inspection facility in West Memphis, Arkansas. As more details become available we will inform the Membership. This event is open to all who want to attend.
9. **Promotional items:** As directed by the Roadcheck Planning Committee, CVSA HQ has developed several materials for handout to drivers during the event. These will be distributed directly to the jurisdictions:
 - ✓ "Understanding the North American Standard Inspection" brochures, and
 - ✓ "What Would They Do Without You?" Safety Belt brochures.
10. Each jurisdiction is responsible for procuring additional items they want to distribute during the event. We would encourage that they be related to one or more of the focus areas for this year's event. Promotional items developed by the jurisdictions should carry the Roadcheck 2004 logo. Contact Vu Nguyen at CVSA HQ for the official copy. We also suggest you contact Vu about the purchasing of promotional items. Other jurisdictions may be interested in purchasing similar items. If so, we may be able to get a better price for you.
11. The Roadcheck 2004 partners are FMCSA, NHTSA, Transport Canada, CCMTA and SCT.
12. See attached information for further details.

This event is important to furthering commercial vehicle safety and security across North America and in recognition of the hard work each of you and your inspectors do every day. It is very important that we have 100 percent participation by all member jurisdictions.

If you have questions regarding this year's Roadcheck program, please contact Steve Keppler (stevek@cvsa.org). All of this material also is available for download on the Members Only portion of CVSA's web site.



Stephen F. Campbell
Executive Director

Enclosures (24)

We recognize that the size of this e-mail transmission and its file attachments is quite large. If you have any problems or difficulties with downloading, formatting, or reading these files, contact Catalina Navarette at CVSA HQ. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. As mentioned above, these items are all available for download from the CVSA Web Site.

YOUR JURISDICTION'S LETTER HEAD GOES HERE

Date

To (Industry Member)

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are pleased to announce that Roadcheck 2004, the 17th annual international truck and bus safety event, will be held June 8-10 throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

As in the previous 16 Roadcheck events, this year's activities will focus on commercial vehicle safety and other driver safety programs aimed at making North American highways safer for everyone. For example, this year we also will be focusing on security measures, as well as encouraging commercial vehicle drivers to wear their safety belt. According to recent studies, only about 48 percent of truck drivers heed the federal law that requires them to wear a safety belt to avoid injury or even death if there is a crash.

Roadcheck 2004 also presents an excellent opportunity to recognize the many industry representatives who like you, are CVSA Associate Members and play an important role in improving commercial vehicle and driver safety and security. We look forward to your support of Roadcheck 2004 and hope you will continue to work with CVSA and your local and regional enforcement jurisdictions in improving highway safety and security.

If you would like to visit a local inspection site or participate in Roadcheck 2004 in some way, please contact (be sure to add phone number & extension) We look forward to hearing from you.

For information on acquiring compliance tools, such as preparatory manuals, training videos, and inspection guidelines, please visit www.cvsa.org or contact Vu Nguyen at CVSA Headquarters, (202) 775-1623 x108.

Sincerely,

YOUR AGENCY CONTACT PERSON GOES HERE

Release Week of May 10 (Release reminder week of May 24)

Dear (News Editor or other Media Contact)

We invite you to observe Roadcheck 2004, an international activity that will take place June 8-10 throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. Annual Roadchecks, which began in 1988, are sponsored by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, North America's leading commercial vehicle safety enforcement organization.

Roadcheck 2004 will emphasize promoting both safety and security on North American highways through the inspection of commercial vehicles and drivers. Truck and bus safety inspectors will be on the job night and day during the 72-hour period checking vehicles and their drivers at inspection sites along major highways. In addition, roving patrols will inspect vehicles and drivers traveling other highways.

This year's Roadcheck also will encourage commercial vehicle drivers to wear their safety belt. According to recent studies, only about 48 percent of truck drivers heed the federal law that requires them to wear a safety belt to avoid injury or death if there is a crash. Roadcheck 2004 also will focus on the importance of commercial drivers continuing security efforts that have been in place since September 11, 2001 to make North American highways safer and more secure for everyone.

We hope you'll take this opportunity to view at least a portion of this important safety event. You'll see CVSA-trained inspectors checking critical safety elements on the vehicles, as well as determining drivers' fitness for duty. Although inspectors perform this work day in and day out, Roadchecks place a special emphasis on year-round commercial vehicle and driver safety inspections and other driver safety programs aimed at saving lives on North American highways. Over 3 million roadside safety inspections are conducted each year by specially trained inspectors. The number of inspections is growing each year as the volume of commercial traffic increases.

If you plan to attend any portion of Roadcheck 2004, please contact (-----) to tell us when and where you or your representative would like to observe the safety checks or if you have need additional information about this event. We look forward to seeing you. We'll make every effort to make your visit worthwhile.

Sincerely,

Signed by
CVSA or local enforcement official