

Brake Safety Week: Be Inspection-Ready Every Day

From August 23–29, 2026, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) will conduct Brake Safety Week across Canada, the United States, and Mexico. During this annual enforcement and education campaign, certified inspectors will focus on commercial motor vehicle brake systems and components.

Brake Safety Week is about more than passing an inspection. Properly maintained brakes help prevent mechanical failures, out-of-service violations, and serious collisions.



Why Brake Safety Matters

Brake-related defects consistently rank among the leading causes of vehicles being placed out of service during roadside inspections.

Common issues include:

- Worn brake pads or linings
- Air leaks within the brake system
- Improper brake adjustments
- Damaged or faulty chambers, hoses, drums, or other components

Even a seemingly minor defect can affect braking performance, increase stopping distance, and put the driver and others on the road at risk.

Inspections Start with You

Do not wait for an enforcement inspection to uncover a problem. A thorough pre-trip inspection can help identify brake defects before the vehicle enters the roadway.

Before driving, check:

- Air-pressure buildup and warning systems
- The brake system for audible air leaks
- Brake response and feel
- Slack adjusters and pushrod travel, when applicable
- The condition of hoses, lines, and connections
- ABS warning-light operation, when applicable



If You Discover a Brake Problem

The appropriate response depends on when the problem is identified.

Before driving:

Report the defect immediately and follow your company's established procedures. Do not operate the vehicle until the issue has been evaluated and corrected by qualified personnel. This includes situations in which the brake system does not build pressure properly, has an audible air leak, pulls to one side, displays a warning light, or shows another sign that stopping ability may be affected.

While driving:

Do not continue the trip as usual. Remain calm, reduce speed, activate your hazard lights when appropriate, and move to a safe location only if the vehicle can be controlled and doing so is reasonably safe. Once stopped, secure the vehicle, notify dispatch or your supervisor, and request assistance. Follow your company's emergency procedures and call 911 if the situation presents an immediate danger.

Never attempt to diagnose, adjust, or repair a brake system unless you are trained and authorized to do so.

Know the Warning Signs

While driving, watch for:

- Increased stopping distance
- Pulling to one side while braking
- Grinding, squealing, or unusual air-release sounds
- Vibrations or inconsistent brake response
- Brake, ABS, or low-air-pressure warning lights

Do not ignore these warning signs. Prompt reporting can help prevent a mechanical failure or collision.



Be Ready for Roadside Inspections

- Complete thorough pre-trip and post-trip inspections.
- Keep required inspection documentation accurate and current.
- Report defects promptly.
- Make sure identified defects are addressed before leaving the yard.



Quick Brake Check: Before You Roll

- ✓ Air pressure builds properly
- ✓ No audible air leaks are present
- ✓ Brake warning systems operate correctly
- ✓ Slack adjusters are within applicable limits
- ✓ Hoses and lines are secure and free from visible damage
- ✓ No unusual sounds occur when braking
- ✓ The vehicle brakes evenly and does not pull to either side

If something does not look, sound, or feel right, stop and report it before driving.

Final Thought

Your brakes are a critical safety system. Taking a few extra minutes to inspect them before every trip can help prevent breakdowns, out-of-service violations, and serious collisions.

**Inspect carefully. Report concerns promptly.
Get home safely.**

Knowledge Verification



Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

1. During a pre-trip inspection, checking for air leaks and proper brake-system pressure is part of the driver's responsibility. ☐ True ☐ False
2. If a brake-related problem is discovered before a trip, the vehicle may be driven as long as the issue is reported at the end of the shift. ☐ True ☐ False
3. If a brake warning sign develops while driving, the driver should continue the trip as usual until reaching the planned destination. ☐ True ☐ False
4. Worn brake pads or linings, air leaks, improper adjustments, and faulty components can reduce stopping performance and increase stopping distance. ☐ True ☐ False

Driver's Name:

Driver's Signature:

Witness Name:

Date:



Scan to view

Online Learning Library

At Old Republic Canada, we value safety and education.

Our online Learning Library is a tool our customers can use to enhance their training efforts and keep safety on the forefront of their employees' minds. Below are some additional titles that can be accessed on any mobile device, computer, or tablet. Simply go to <http://orican.infinitt-i.net> to get started.

Value Driven Driving:
Module 1 - Preventing Rear-End Crashes
Module 2 - Preventing Loss of Control Crashes
Module 3 - Preventing Lane Change Crashes