



## WHAT IS IN THE CAB OF YOUR TRUCK?

With COVID - some of you may be reluctant to look inside your trucks. When is the last time you looked inside the cab, body, or trailer of the trucks that your drivers are operating?

Over the years of inspecting and looking inside commercial motor vehicles for the companies I have worked for, I have seen the following items inside trucks that present unique dangerous situations to the driver and unnecessary liability exposure to the company:

*Armadillos, dogs, cats, snakes, a folding chair, television on the dash, milk crates, garbage, windows tinted beyond federal regulations, stuffed animals in the windshield, alcohol, drugs, firearms, radar detectors, and unauthorized passengers.*

Some of these items are strictly prohibited by the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations) (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations>) and others are restricted by regulations. Regardless of the regulations each of these items should be addressed by your company safety policy and procedures manual to ensure safe operations of your commercial motor vehicles.

Please review the following Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations with your drivers, as it pertains to:



**Items in the windshield, garbage, and clutter inside the cab:** *398.4 Driving of motor vehicles*

Interference with the driver. No motor vehicle shall be driven when any object obscures his/her view ahead, or to the right or left sides, or to the rear, or interferes with the free movement of his/her arms or legs, or prevents his/her free and ready access to the accessories required for emergencies, or prevents the free and ready exit of any person from the cab or driver's compartment.

**Devices mounted at the top of the windshield:** *393.60 Prohibition on obstructions to the driver's field of view*

Antennas, transponders, and similar devices must not be mounted more than 152 mm (6 inches) below the upper edge of the windshield. These devices must be located outside the area swept by the windshield wipers, and outside the driver's sightlines to the road and highway signs and signals.

**Decals and stickers mounted on the windshield:** *393.60 Prohibition on obstructions to the driver's field of view*

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspection decals, and stickers and/or decals required under Federal or State laws may be placed at the bottom or sides of the windshield provided such decals or stickers do not extend more than 115 mm (4½ inches) from the bottom of the windshield and are located outside the area swept by the windshield wipers, and outside the driver's sightlines to the road and highway signs or signals.

**Unauthorized Passengers:** *392.60 Unauthorized persons not to be transported*

Unless specifically authorized in writing to do so by the motor carrier under whose authority the commercial motor vehicle is being operated, no driver shall transport any person or permit any person to be transported on any commercial motor vehicle other than a bus. When such authorization is issued, it shall state the name of the person to be transported, the points where the

transportation is to begin and end, and the date upon which such authority expires. No written authorization, however, shall be necessary for the transportation of:

- (1) Employees or other persons assigned to a commercial motor vehicle by a motor carrier.
- (2) Any person transported when aid is being rendered in case of an accident or other emergency.



**Tinting of Windows:** *393.60 Glazing in specified openings*

Coloring or tinting of windshields and the windows to the immediate right and left of the driver is allowed, provided the parallel luminous transmittance through the colored or tinted glazing is not less than 70 percent of the light at normal incidence in those portions of the windshield or windows which are marked as having a parallel luminous transmittance of not less than 70 percent. The transmittance restriction does not apply to other windows on the commercial motor vehicle.

**Televisions:** *393.88 Television receivers*

Any motor vehicle equipped with a television viewer, screen or other means of visually receiving a television broadcast shall have the viewer or screen located in the motor vehicle at a point to the rear of the back of the driver's seat if such viewer or screen is in the same compartment as the driver and the viewer or screen shall be so located as not to be visible to the driver, while he/she is driving the motor vehicle. The operating controls for the television receiver shall be so located that the driver cannot operate them without leaving the driver's seat

**Alcohol:** *392.5 Alcohol prohibition*

Be on duty or operate a commercial motor vehicle while the driver possesses wine of not less than one-half of one per centum of alcohol by volume, beer as defined in 26 U.S.C. 5052(a), of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and distilled spirits as defined in section 5002(a)(8), of such Code. However, this does not apply to possession of wine, beer, or distilled spirits which are manifested and transported as part of a shipment.

**Drugs and controlled substances:** *392.4 Drugs and other substances*



(a) No driver shall be on duty and possess, be under the influence of, or use, any of the following drugs or other substances:

(a)(1) Any 21 CFR 1308.11 Schedule I substance;

(a)(2) An amphetamine or any formulation thereof (including, but not limited, to "pep pills," and "bennies");

(a)(3) A narcotic drug or any derivative thereof; or

(a)(4) Any other substance, to a degree which renders the driver incapable of safely operating a motor vehicle.

(b) No motor carrier shall require or permit a driver to violate paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Paragraphs (a)(2), (3), and (4) do not apply to the possession or use of a substance administered to a driver by or under the instructions of a licensed medical practitioner, as defined in §382.107 of this subchapter, who has advised the driver that the substance will not affect the driver's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

(d) As used in this section, "possession" does not include possession of a substance that is manifested and transported as part of a shipment.

## Animals

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations do not specifically address animals inside of a commercial motor vehicle.



## Firearms

Firearms by federal regulation are not specifically regulated rather each state has laws regarding transportation of firearms in motor vehicles. Most states have a concealed weapon laws which make it illegal to transport a firearm concealed in any type of motor vehicle without a permit.

**Radar Detectors:** 392.71 Radar Detectors; use and/or possession

(a) No driver shall use a radar detector in a commercial motor vehicle, or operate a commercial motor vehicle that is equipped with or contains any radar detector.

(b) No motor carrier shall require or permit a driver to violate paragraph (a) of this section

***Safely getting in or out of a Commercial Motor Vehicle... 3 Point Rule***



Now is a good time to remind drivers to follow the 3 Point rule while getting in and out of their trucks. During the winter months, footing conditions are compromised and the chance of slipping or falling is increased. The 3 Point rule is simply that you keep three out of four of your contact points (hands and feet) secured to keep from slipping or falling. When exiting a truck, for example, one hand on the cab handle, one hand gripping the interior door handle, and one foot on a step while the other foot is in transition, by doing this you always maintain three points of contact.

***DHS to Require COVID Vaccinations for Canadian Truckers to Enter U.S.***



Beginning in early January 2022, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will require Canadian truck drivers to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before entering the United States.

DHS is now in the process of amending its regulations to allow non-essential travelers, including tourists, who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and have appropriate documentation to enter the United States via land and ferry ports of entry across the U.S. border with Canada. Essential workers, including truck drivers, have been allowed to cross the border into the U.S. without proof of vaccination up to this point.

Requiring proof of vaccination status for Canadian truck drivers is expected to further hamper cross-border trade and hamper supply chains for U.S. companies and customers.



### **Registration is Open for the 2021 Idealease Fall Safety Webinars**

*We will be presenting six safety webinars this fall for our prospects and customers to attend in place of in-person safety seminars, at NO cost to you. Just click the link(s) for the webinar(s) you want to attend and register. All the webinars are less than one hour in length. At the end of a webinar if you have questions, email them to me and I will get back to you promptly. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

Looking forward to having in-person safety seminars with you all. Hopefully, as early as next Spring!

**October 27th – 1pm CST**

[Who is Required to Comply with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations?](#)

[\(https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMud-CvrTluHtHldT6AeIDekcoZcsyJr4v-\)](https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMud-CvrTluHtHldT6AeIDekcoZcsyJr4v-)

**November 3rd – 1pm CST**

[Qualifying a Driver of a Commercial Motor Vehicle](#)

[\(https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpcOiqqjssEtZF88tCUBGeZ3WIQ47HSW7r\)](https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpcOiqqjssEtZF88tCUBGeZ3WIQ47HSW7r)

**November 10th – 1pm CST**

[Keeping Your Driver Safe During a Pandemic](#)

[\(https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclde2spjsgdQgjlOOpgOrKW0VUVXncnOS\)](https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclde2spjsgdQgjlOOpgOrKW0VUVXncnOS)

**November 17th – 1pm CST**

[Hours of Service Regulations and the ELD](#)

[\(https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdumhpz4pEtZnL10C66bfP0GSNHBm4X9X\)](https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdumhpz4pEtZnL10C66bfP0GSNHBm4X9X)

**December 1st – 1pm CST**

[How the Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulations Apply to you a Motor Carrier](#)

[\(https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAodeyqrjgrE9F94vFjXEI6pCuZ0Oy9Yvcq\)](https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAodeyqrjgrE9F94vFjXEI6pCuZ0Oy9Yvcq)

**December 8th – 1pm CST**

[Developing a Proactive Safety and Loss Control Program](#)

[\(https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrc-GrpjgvEtBbWwa8DxzTidv9kAvkiypr\)](https://idealease.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrc-GrpjgvEtBbWwa8DxzTidv9kAvkiypr)

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**24/7** ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE  
CALL 1-800-435-3273

IDEALEASE, INC.  
430 North Rand Road, North Barrington, IL 60010 | 847-304-6000 |