



The Basics of B.A.S.I.C.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) developed a benchmarking system under its Compliance, Safety and Accountability (CSA) program to determine how motor carriers compare in terms of safety. In general, this system looks at crashes, inspections and violations, but more specifically, FMCSA has defined seven categories, known as “BASICS” for comparison among carriers. These **BASICS, or Behavioral Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories** were developed by CSA under the premise that commercial motor vehicle crashes can be traced to the behavior of motor carriers and/or drivers. According to CSA, the BASICS are:

Unsafe Driving: Operation of commercial motor vehicles in a dangerous or careless manner based on FMCSA Regulation Parts 392 and 392 which may include: speeding, reckless driving, improper lane change, and inattention.

Fatigued Driving: Operation of commercial motor vehicles by drivers who are ill, fatigued, or in non-compliance with the hours-of-service (HOS) regulations as spelled out in Parts 392 and 395 of the FMCSA Regulations. Typical violations may include HOS, logbook, and operating a commercial motor vehicle while ill or fatigued.

Vehicle Maintenance: Improper or inadequate maintenance of a commercial motor vehicle as described in FMCSA Regulation Parts 393 and 396. Violations of this BASIC may include inoperative brakes or lights, worn tires or other mechanical defects.

Cargo-Related: Requirements of Parts 392, 393 and 397 related to properly preventing the shifting of loads, spilled or dropped cargo, overloading and the unsafe handling of hazardous materials.

Controlled Substances / Alcohol: Operation of a commercial motor vehicle by a driver who is impaired due to alcohol (at or above 0.02), illegal drugs or misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

Driver Fitness: In regards to Parts 383 and 391, it refers to the operation of commercial motor vehicles by drivers who are unfit to operate a CMV due to lack of training, experience, or medical qualifications.

Crash Indicator: Based on information from State-reported crashes that meet reportable crash standards, this BASIC includes the histories or patterns of high crash involvement such as frequency and severity.

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