Roadcheck 2013 Results—Commercial Vehicle Compliance Still Shows Room for Improvement; One in Five Vehicles Inspected Placed Out-of-Service During Three-Day Event

The results are in for the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's Roadcheck 2013, which took place June 4-6. Commercial vehicle inspectors across North America completed 73,023 truck and bus inspections during the 72-hour enforcement and safety outreach campaign.

Washington, DC (PRWEB) September 11, 2013 -- Commercial vehicle inspectors across North America completed 73,023 truck and bus inspections during 72 hours of Roadcheck 2013, the premier annual enforcement and safety outreach campaign carried out by the members of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). Of those inspections, a total of 47,771 were North American Standard Level I inspections—the most comprehensive roadside inspection, in which vehicles and drivers are assessed for violations of federal, state or Canadian provincial safety regulations. Other inspections conducted were vehicle-only or driver-only inspections. Of Level I inspections conducted in Canada and the U.S., 24.1% were found with Out-of-Service (OOS) violations. There were a total of 71,630 driver inspections, including those conducted during Level I inspections, from which 4.3% were found with OOS violations. There were 899 seatbelt violations issued.

Roadcheck 2013 included special emphasis on motorcoach safety, including traffic enforcement, as well as securement of cargo. Motorcoaches account for a fraction of the commercial vehicles on the road, but the importance of their safe operation is compounded by the many passengers they must safely deliver to their destinations. Jurisdictions reported a total of 1,471 motorcoaches were inspected during Roadcheck this year. CVSA also collaborated with the International Association of Chiefs of Police to request their support in conducting enforcement of traffic safety laws on bus and motorcoach drivers.

Cargo securement related violations represented 11.7% of all OOS violations issued during the event, down slightly from 12.3% in 2012. Although this equates to only one out of every 50 vehicles inspected, loss of a load by a commercial truck is always a severe risk to safety. Inspectors always watch for signs of improperly secured loads such as inadequate number of tie downs, damaged webbing or chain, and other load securement violations.

Brakes routinely stand out in the mix of OOS violations issued during Roadcheck. This year, 49.6% of vehicle OOS violations were related to brake adjustment and other brake system violations. Additionally, performance based brake testers or PBBTs were used during Roadcheck 2013. Nine U.S. states and one Canadian province are equipped with PBBT systems for enforcement use. Of the 287 enforcement inspections conducted with a PBBT, 36 vehicles or 12.5% were found with overall braking efficiency below the minimum required by U.S. regulation and the North American Standard OOS Criteria.

CVSA estimates that over 10,000 CVSA and FMCSA inspectors participated at approximately 2,500 locations across North America during this year’s Roadcheck. On an annual basis, nearly 4 million inspections are conducted across the continent.

CVSA President Mark Savage, a major with the Colorado State Patrol, noted that "the strong enforcement presence involved in Roadcheck and throughout the year is a critical component in our safety efforts across
North America. Inspectors are making a huge impact and they are to be commended for their efforts."

Roadcheck 2013 took place June 4-6, with approximately 1,000 commercial vehicles inspected every hour during the 72-hour event. The United States, Canada and Mexico participated with inspections occurring either at fixed or temporary inspection locations. Also, the law enforcement community was watching for traffic law violations. Inspections included an examination of driver licenses and credentials, proper and complete records of duty status, safety belt use, driving behaviors and other driver safety conditions. All vehicle systems that are critical to safe operation were checked. Roadcheck has resulted in the inspection of over 1.3 million vehicles and drivers since it began in 1988. The inspections are conducted with the same North American Standard Inspection procedures used every day of the year. The event also gives inspectors and members of industry opportunities to highlight and promote safety improvement efforts of their companies and agencies.

CVSA sponsors Roadcheck each year with the support of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA), Transport Canada, and the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (Mexico).

“Improving safety on our highways and roads is a product of everyone doing their part—truck and bus operators, commercial vehicle inspectors, law enforcement officers as well as the motoring public,” said FMCSA Administrator Anne S. Ferro. “By working together, and with every driver focused on safety, we can prevent crashes involving large trucks, buses and passenger vehicles. Every traveler on every trip is entitled to reach their destination safely.”

About CVSA
CVSA is an international not-for-profit organization comprising local, state, provincial, territorial and federal motor carrier safety officials and industry representatives from the United States, Canada and Mexico. Its mission is to promote commercial motor vehicle safety and security by providing leadership to enforcement, industry and policy-makers. The Alliance actively monitors, evaluates and identifies solutions to potentially unsafe transportation processes and procedures related to driver and vehicle safety requirements most often associated with commercial motor vehicle crashes. In addition, CVSA has several hundred associate members who are committed to helping the Alliance achieve its goals: uniformity, compatibility and reciprocity of commercial vehicle inspections, and enforcement activities throughout North America by individuals dedicated to highway safety and security. For more on CVSA, visit http://www.cvsa.org
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