

Several changes have been made to the North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria

On April 1, 2005, several changes to the latest Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria (OOS Criteria) went into effect. During roadside inspections, safety inspectors use OOS Criteria to determine whether to place a driver or vehicle out of service. The CVSA OOS Criteria is used by all CVSA-certified commercial vehicle law enforcement agencies in North America. Any violations that are found must be corrected before operations can resume.

Language Requirement

A language requirement was added to the OOS Criteria. Law enforcement can now place a driver out of service who is unable to communicate efficiently in the country where operating. The language standard is based on Sec. 391.11(b)(2) of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. This section states that a driver must be able to “read and speak the English language sufficiently to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, to respond to official inquiries, and to make entries on reports and records.”

The OOS Criteria reads as follows:

“In recognition of the three countries’ [Canada, Mexico, and the United States] language differences, it is the responsibility of the driver and the motor carrier to be able to communicate in the country in which the driver/carrier is operating so that safety is not compromised.”

The OOS Criteria says to place the driver out of service if the driver doesn’t meet the language requirement.

Other Changes

The following are other changes that were made to the OOS Criteria that went into effect on April 1, 2005:

- **Brake Chart**—

A chart that shows the total number of brakes that need to be defective before a vehicle is placed out of service has been added to the criteria.

- **Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP)**—

A vehicle will be placed out of service in Canada if the vehicle is carrying dangerous goods without an ERAP when required.

- **Log Falsification**—

If the driver’s log does not accurately reflect the actual activities and duty status of the driver, the driver can be placed out of service. A driver can be placed out of service for log falsification even if the violation occurred prior to the current 60-hour/7-day or 70-hour/8-day period.

The OOS Criteria can be obtained from CVSA at www.cvsa.org or by calling 202-775-1623.

For more information, contact CTSI at 303-861-0507.

County Technical Services, Inc.

800 Grant St., Suite 400
Denver CO 80203

303.861.0507
FAX: 303.861.2832

Technical Updates are available online at: www.ctsi.org