

Safety Audits - What to Expect

After contacting the number on the letter you received from FMCSA regarding your DOT number, you will be asked questions regarding your operation, number of trucks and number of drivers.

An appointment will be made if you are an interstate carrier. The appointment will last 2-4 hours and will take place at your place of business so you will have access to records the officer may ask for. The equipment can be inspected if it is available and has operated interstate in the 7 days prior to the safety audit.

People often ask what kinds of records we will review. Records reviewed will include, but are not limited to the following CFR's:

- Part 380 - Special Training Requirements
- Part 382 – Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Part 383 – CDL
- Part 387 – Insurance
- Part 390 – General Requirements
- Part 391 – Driver Qualification Files
- Part 392 – Local Laws and Rules of the Road
- Part 395 – Hours of Service
- Part 393 & 396 – Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance Records
- Part 397 – Hazardous Materials (if applicable)

All of these records are required to be kept by owner-operators and companies of any size, involved in interstate commerce. Washington State has also adopted these requirements with a few exceptions. If you are a carrier and are not involved in interstate commerce, a safety audit cannot be completed on your business, however intrastate carriers should be aware they are still required to maintain these files and safety practices. Contact with our office should still be made to ensure your DOT number is not revoked for no-contact.

Our goal is to ensure that new carriers have the tools and resources necessary to maintain the required documents and meet the regulations. These practices will help ensure that carriers have basic safety management practices in place. The long-term goal is to reduce truck-related crashes and to ensure that carriers are hiring the safest drivers possible.

Safety Auditors are trained in all of the regulations, and can answer questions to many different questions.