

“Qualified Inspector”

A Word Concerning Client Responsibilities

Federal Annual Inspection and Preventive Maintenance Inspections classes provided by Fleet Group, Inc. include both lecture (theory) and practical (hands-on) training formats at your location. These classes are designed to give your technicians the training they need to properly perform and document a Federal Annual Inspection per the guidelines set forth in the FMCSA Appendix G to Subchapter B — Minimum Periodic Inspection Standards.

Additionally, in the Federal Annual Inspection class, participants are shown the differences between the out-of-service criteria (OOS) and the FMCSA's Federal Annual Inspection guidelines. By performing quality Federal Annual Inspections you can ensure the operation of safe, road worthy vehicles and eliminate costly DOT fines and violations. When teamed with a quality Preventive Maintenance program, this ultimately leads to lower maintenance costs by reducing repairs between PMs and vehicle breakdowns.

It is important however that the client understands their responsibilities concerning DOT and FMCSA rules and regulations for the “Qualified Inspector”. While these classes provide the necessary training required to satisfy the requirements of the regulations, there is no substitute for on-the-job experience. Clients should be aware that the best inspectors have a combination of training AND experience needed to properly perform the Federal Annual Inspection. In addition, the federal regulations require that proper documentation be kept on site for all employees currently performing federal Annual Inspections. Below, we have provided the specific regulations concerning both the requirements for the inspector qualifications:

§396.19 Inspector Qualifications

(a) It shall be the motor carrier's responsibility to ensure that the individual(s) performing an annual inspection under §396.17(d) or (e) is qualified as follows:

(a)(1) Understands the inspection criteria set forth in 49 CFR Part 393 and Appendix G of this subchapter and can identify defective components;

(a)(2) Is knowledgeable of and has mastered the methods, procedures, tools and equipment used when performing an inspection; and

(a)(3) Is capable of performing an inspection by reason of experience, training, or both as follows:

(a)(3)(i) Successfully completed a State or Federal sponsored training program or has a certificate from a State or Canadian Province which qualifies the person to perform commercial motor vehicle safety inspections, or

(a)(3)(ii) Have a combination of training and/or experience totaling at least 1 year. Such training and/or experience may consist of:

(a)(3)(ii)(A) Participation in a truck manufacturer sponsored training program or similar commercial training program designed to train students in truck operation and maintenance;

(a)(3)(ii)(B) Experience as a mechanic or inspector in a motor carrier maintenance program;

(a)(3)(ii)(C) Experience as a mechanic or inspector in truck maintenance at a commercial garage, fleet leasing company, or similar facility; or

(a)(3)(ii)(D) Experience as a commercial vehicle inspector for a State, Provincial or Federal Government.

(b) Evidence of that individual's qualifications under this section shall be retained by the motor carrier for the period during which that individual is performing annual motor vehicle inspections for the motor carrier, and for one year thereafter. However, motor carriers do not have to maintain documentation of inspector qualifications for those inspections performed either as part of a State periodic inspection program or at the roadside as part of a random roadside inspection program.

[53 FR 49410, Dec. 7, 1988; 53 FR 49968, Dec. 12, 1988].