

Frequently Asked Questions

What will happen if I am placed Out of Service?

A driver can be placed out of service for not meeting the English-language proficiency. The motor carrier, however, can find a replacement driver, but that driver must also meet the language proficiency to qualify to drive a CMV.

When can I drive a truck in the U.S. again?

If a driver is placed out of service, he or she will not be able to drive trucks in the U.S. until the motor carrier determines that the driver can demonstrate that they can understand, and respond to, inquiries and directions in English.

Will I receive a fine?

All violations discovered during a roadside inspection may result in a fine. The inspector has the discretion whether or not to issue a fine to the driver or motor carrier.

Will I lose my Commercial Driver License?

The driver will not lose his or her driver license during a roadside inspection.

Who can I call for additional language?

The Federal Motor Carrier Administration has a division office in each of the 4 southern border states:

Arizona (602) 379-6851

California (916) 930-2760

New Mexico (505) 346-7858

Texas (512) 916-5440

www.fmcsa.dot.gov



U.S. Dept. of Transportation

Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

You must be able to

READ and SPEAK English

to drive a truck in the United States.



The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) require all drivers operating trucks to be able to read and speak the English language sufficiently to:

- Converse with the general public**
- Understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language**
- Respond to official inquiries**
- Make entries on reports and records**

To verify English language proficiency, an inspector will conduct a driver interview during the driver/vehicle inspection. The driver interview will be conducted in English. If the driver is *unable to understand and respond to official inquiries and directions in English*, the driver can be placed out of service.

Interview question examples:

- Show me your driver license, please.
- Show me proof of insurance for your vehicles.
- Show me the registration for your vehicle(s).
- Do you use time cards or log books?
- Where did you start your trip today?
- Where are you driving to today?
- What are you hauling today?

