



## SAFETY BULLETIN

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### How to Conduct Yourself if Pulled Over by a Law Enforcement Official



The flashing lights of a police car in a rear view mirror fill many drivers with dread. "Am I really being pulled over?" you might wonder. Although no one likes being pulled over, it's essential to show a law enforcement officer that you're cooperating. From the moment those lights come on, the officer is observing your behavior, and the way you respond may affect whether or not you receive a ticket. So as soon as you see those flashing lights behind you, turn on your right turn signal and pull over to the right as quickly -- but also as safely --

### Final Rule Regarding the Use of Electronic Versions of the Federal Drug Testing Forms

Published in today's Federal Register is the Department of Transportation's Final Rule regarding the use of electronic versions of the Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form (eCCF). You can access the Federal Register document [HERE](#).

Now is the Time for all Drivers to Tune Up their Pre- and Post-Trip Inspection Skills. Roadcheck 2015 will take place on June 2-4, 2015

as possible. It is important to make sure that you are able to pull over in a place that is safe, flat and solid. Again, it's important to show the officer that you're cooperating, and by stopping safely as near where the violation occurred, you may have a better sense of what happened. You will also be able to make observations about the area that can help you if you contest the ticket, such as noting an obstructed speed limit sign or that a new yield sign is in place.

Once you have safely pulled over, turn off the engine, roll down your window all the way and place your hands on the steering wheel. Do not get out of the truck unless asked by the officer. If it's dark, turn on the interior lights in your truck. Don't make any sudden movements, and don't rummage through your belongings looking for your wallet until you are asked for documentation. Remember that law enforcement officers are killed every year while conducting routine traffic stops, so it's understandable that an officer may treat you with suspicion. Respond accordingly by being cooperative and do not give any cause for alarm.

It's OK to greet the officer, but it's wise to wait for the officer to ask you a question. He or she will likely ask for your driver's license, medical certificate, logbook and vehicle registration. It's important to give the officer these documents when asked and not question why. However, if you are pulled over by an unmarked car or aren't sure if the person is a police officer, it's acceptable to wait to roll down your window until the person has identified himself or herself as an officer.

When talking with the officer, don't admit any guilt. It's acceptable to give simple yes or no answers to questions. If an officer decides to give you a ticket, his or her mind is already made up, and it's very unlikely you'll be able to argue your way out of it. Anything you say could later be used in court, should you choose to contest the ticket, so be mindful of what you say. Never try to bribe the officer -- this is not only highly unethical but it is also a crime.

During a traffic stop, an officer can only search your truck if there's probable cause to believe you're concealing something illegal or if he or she believes that you are dangerous. Before approaching a motorist he or she has pulled over, an officer usually looks for movement by the driver, such as one shoulder dipping down, something that would indicate that the driver is attempting to hide something underneath a seat or in a compartment.

If an officer asks you to get out of your truck, it's once again important to cooperate. Once you are out of the truck, the officer may pat you down, and if anything illegal or suspicious is found, he or she may then search your truck. If your truck becomes impounded, it can then also be legally searched.

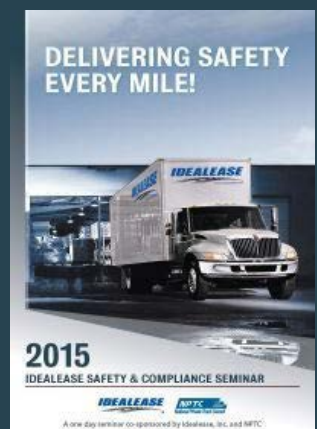
An officer might ask you to sign your ticket, but depending on state law, you may not have to. Signing a ticket is not an admission of guilt. It just means that you agree to pay the fine or to appear in court.

**When you have a citation in your hand, what are your options?**

Starting June 2, approximately 10,000 specially-trained and certified officers will blanket North America's roadways to prevent truck and bus crashes and save lives. For the past 28 years, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) annual Roadcheck event dispatches federal, state, provincial and local inspectors to conduct North American Standard Inspections around the clock for 72 hours from June 2-4. These inspections involve a comprehensive 37-step procedure which includes items related to vehicle, driver and cargo safety. Inspectors also hand out educational materials to drivers on various aspects of commercial vehicle, driver and hazardous materials safety.

### [International Roadcheck Checklist for Drivers](#)

**Register Now for the 2015 Idealease/NPTC Safety Seminars!**



Idealease, its members and the National Private

- Guilty Plea: You could just pay it which is a guilty plea and go on down the road unless the judge demands you show up in court.
- Not-Guilty Plea: You could plead not guilty and get a court date, where you could return to the court and defend yourself.
- Ignore the Citation: You could just ignore it and hope it goes away. This is NOT recommended as the law enforcement will eventually catch up with you and suspend your license and fines will be increased with penalties.

What about the citation received during an inspection where the officer writing the citation is judge, jury and executioner?

In that situation you can do a DataQ Challenge, but you will need to provide all the documentation you can as well as present your case. Know the regulations as this will help you determine if you have a chance in fighting the violation. Whenever possible cite regulation to substantiate your position.. If you can convince the officer he made a mistake, then he will remove or reduce the citation and the points on your CSA.

There is a driver shortage out there right now; however a lot of that shortage is caused because carriers refuse to hire drivers with too many points on the CDL or CSA. You should do a DataQ Challenge on any inspection you receive where the officer puts points on your CSA that you are in disagreement with.

Go to: <https://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov/login.asp>

Always follow the law and be a safe driver, but if the time comes when you do receive a citation, be smart about the steps you take afterward and it could save you money and your career.

### An Emergency Vehicle is approaching...

DO...

- Pull to the nearest edge of the roadway and come to a complete stop until all emergency vehicles have passed.
- Be alert to the approach of more than one emergency vehicle. Be sure to check your rear-view mirror before pulling back on the travel lane.
- Keep the volume of your radio to a level that will not interfere with your ability to hear approaching emergency vehicles.
- Use your turn signal when pulling off the road. This sends a message to the emergency vehicle operator that you are aware of his presence.

Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2015. The one day seminars this year will focus on basic safety and compliance, regulation changes and CSA. The seminars and will be provided to all Idealease customers, potential customers and NPTC members at no charge. The seminar provides important information applicable for both the novice and experienced transportation professionals.

To register for an upcoming seminar in 2015 [CLICK HERE](#).

### 2015 Idealease Safety Seminar Schedule:

April 21	Santa Fe Springs, CA
April 21	Harrisburg, PA
April 22	Ventura, CA
April 22	Landover, MD
April 23	Baltimore, MD
April 28	Oklahoma City, OK
April 30	Milwaukee, WI
May 5	Kelowna, BC
May 6	Lexington, KY
May 7	Denver, CO
May 12	Tampa, FL
May 12	Detroit, MI
May 14	Minneapolis, MN
May 20	Altoona, IA
June 25	Santa Rosa, CA
October 13	Toledo, OH
October 14	Grand Rapids, MI
October 20	Las Vegas, NV
October 22	San Martin, CA

**EMERGENCY VEHICLES ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY.**



### **DON'T...**

- Block any intersection. Blocking intersections, even when attempting to yield to an emergency vehicle is dangerous.
- Follow an emergency vehicle responding to an emergency closer than 500 feet. It's against the law!
- Stop on a bridge, curve or crest of a hill, instead, activate your turn signal and proceed forward until you can safely pull over and come to a complete stop.
- Slam on you brakes or stop directly in front of an emergency vehicle. Large trucks require more stopping distance than a passenger car. Stopping abruptly in front of any large vehicle can have deadly consequences.

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## **Safe Driving Tips for Summer Time Weather Conditions**





## Tornado

- Do not drive during tornado conditions.
- Never try to out-drive a tornado in a vehicle. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift a car or truck and toss it through the air.
- Get out of your vehicle immediately and seek shelter in a nearby building.
- If there is no time to get indoors, or if there is no nearby shelter, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or a low-lying area away from the vehicle. Over passes also can be places of refuge, however, be aware of the potential for flooding.

## Severe Thunderstorms and Lightning

- Tune in to your radio to stay informed of approaching storms.
- If you see a tornado or hear a tornado warning, don't try to outrun it. View tornado driving safety tips.
- Turn on your headlights (low beams) and slow down. Many states require the use of headlights during rain.
- Allow extra distance for braking.
- Do not drive unless necessary.
- Pull safely onto the shoulder of the road away from any trees that could fall on the vehicle.
- Stay in the car and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rains subside.
- An automobile provides better insulation against lightning than being in the open.
- Avoid contact with any metal conducting surfaces either inside your car or outside.
- Avoid flooded roadways.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- Check your windshield wipers and tires regularly to insure that they are ready for severe weather.
- Approach intersections with caution.
- Treat traffic lights at intersections as stop signs.

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