



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

SP-99-088-RR

Supersedes SP-84-005-RR

Subject MCSAP POLICY: MCSAP Roadside Inspections
Work Unit Count

Date July 23, 1999
(stamped)

From Chief, National Programs Division
Office of National and International Safety
Programs

Reply to
Attn of HMSP-10

To State Directors, Office of Motor Carrier
& Highway Safety

This policy supersedes policy SP-84-005-RR which was prepared in April 1984. It prescribed the method for managers and inspectors to count and record the number of vehicles inspected and the number of out-of-service (OOS) vehicles. The establishment of the policy helped ensure uniformity in the collected data. The methods have not changed, but this new policy provides for the use of inspectors' computers in reporting inspections and OOS violations.

Definition of Vehicle Inspected

A single vehicle or a combination unit will be counted as one vehicle inspected. For example, the inspection of a tractor and towed unit(s) is counted as one vehicle inspection, as would the inspection of a bobtail tractor or straight truck.

Definition of (OOS) Vehicles

Either a single vehicle or a combination unit (with any individual unit) having OOS violations is counted as one OOS vehicle despite the number of OOS violations discovered. For example, a tractor semitrailer combination having one OOS violation on each unit would be counted as one OOS vehicle as would be a straight truck with three OOS violations.

Definition of Multiple OOS Violations - Same vehicle

A single vehicle or one unit in a combination having more than one OOS violation would be considered to have multiple OOS violations. All OOS violations discovered are to be recorded in the computer or on the paper vehicle inspection form. Multiple OOS violations are not used in computing the ratio of OOS vehicles to total vehicles inspected but are used for other statistical purposes.

Definition of Ratio of OOS Vehicles to total vehicles inspected

The ratio represents the percentage of the total number of vehicles placed OOS to the total number of vehicles inspected for a given time. The actual number of vehicles placed OOS is the number used in the computation, not the total number of OOS violations. To reiterate, a tractor pulling twin trailers having an OOS violation on each

unit in the combination would be counted as one vehicle inspected and one OOS vehicle. If 100 vehicles are inspected, 50 OOS violations discovered and 25 vehicles placed OOS, the computation is: 25 divided into 100 = 25% or an OOS ratio of 25% of all vehicles inspected. Ratios may be computed by inspection level or as an aggregate depending on the circumstances.

In order to prevent a distortion in the ratio of vehicles placed OOS to the number of vehicles inspected, it is imperative that States have the capability within its record keeping system to distinguish between the total number of vehicles inspected, the total number of vehicles placed OOS and the total number of OOS violations.

Please refer to SP-99-009-IN for revised procedures in recording and reporting multiple violations and OOS violations.

Any questions regarding this revised policy should be directed to Bonnie Simmons (202 366-2967) or your headquarters Resource Center Coordinator.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. Daniel Hartman".

F. Daniel Hartman

cc: FHWA RC's
CVSA