

Safety Handbook for a Trucking Company – Key Sections

1. Introduction

- Purpose of the handbook
 - Company commitment to safety
 - Who the handbook applies to (drivers, dispatchers, maintenance, etc.)
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2. Company Policies

- Drug and alcohol policy (including DOT compliance)
 - Distracted driving policy
 - Harassment and discrimination policies
 - Reporting unsafe conditions or accidents
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3. Driver Requirements

- Licensing and endorsement expectations (e.g., CDL, Hazmat)
 - Minimum experience requirements
 - Medical exams (DOT physicals)
 - Training requirements and ongoing education
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4. Vehicle Safety and Maintenance

- Daily vehicle inspection procedures (DVIR)
 - Preventive maintenance schedules
 - Procedures for reporting mechanical issues
 - Pre-trip and post-trip inspections checklist
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5. Safe Driving Practices

- Speed limits and adherence
- Defensive driving techniques
- Safe following distances
- Lane changes and blind spots
- Night driving and adverse weather conditions
- Use of seat belts

6. Fatigue Management

- Hours of Service (HOS) regulations
 - Rest break requirements
 - Electronic Logging Device (ELD) policy
 - Recognizing and reporting fatigue
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7. Cargo Securement

- General cargo securement rules
 - Load weight distribution
 - Tiedown requirements (chains, straps, etc.)
 - Hazmat-specific securement (if applicable)
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8. Emergency Procedures

- Accident response (step-by-step)
 - Fire procedures
 - Breakdown protocol
 - Emergency contact numbers
 - Spill or hazmat incident handling
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9. Weather and Road Conditions

- Guidelines for snow, ice, fog, heavy rain
 - Chains and tire traction devices
 - When to delay or cancel a trip
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10. Technology Use

- Use of GPS and routing software
 - Cell phone and communication policies
 - Dashcam usage and privacy
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11. Disciplinary Action Policy

- Consequences of safety violations
 - Progressive discipline process
 - Grounds for immediate termination
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12. Acknowledgment Form

- Signature page for drivers to confirm receipt and understanding of the handbook
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Optional (but helpful) Add-ons:

- Glossary of trucking/safety terms
- State-specific or federal regulations (FMCSA highlights)
- Visual aids (charts, pre-trip inspection diagrams)
- Quick-reference checklists