

**Title 1: Why Your Business Needs a Fleet Safety Plan**

Subtitle 1: *How fleet safety certification can save your business time and money.*

**Title 2: Is Your Business Fleet Safety Certified?**

Subtitle 2: *Learn what it means to be fleet safety certified.*

**Title 3: Keep Your Safety Director Prepared with A Fleet Safety Plan**

Subtitle 3: *Fleet safety plans keep your business ready at all times.*

If your business operates vehicles for delivery to warehouses or directly to your customers, then you need a fleet safety program. Fleet safety programs keep your business, your employees, and your contractors protected while ensuring that the needs of your customers are met. Operating a motor vehicle comes with a level of risk, and it is the job of safety directors and other members of the management team to reduce that risk as much as possible.

Developing a fleet safety program will help your business to reduce accidents. They also help protect your business against liability. Altogether, fleet safety programs are an effective way to keep your employees and contractors safe while improving the efficiency of your operations.



## Fleet Safety Certification Helps Businesses Lower Their Risk

Individual professionals can become fleet safety certified through programs conducted at institutions such as the North American Transportation Management Institute (NATMI). With the help of certified individuals, companies often create their own fleet safety plans, which are programs designed to make companies more efficient while lowering risk.

Fleet safety professionals and company managers can work towards fleet safety certification. Fleet safety certified professionals are aware of DOT (Federal and State Department of Transportation) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) regulations. They understand the ins and outs of fleet maintenance as well as how to develop a system that can regulate your company fleet and improve operational efficiency.

Professionals with fleet safety certifications can be trusted to establish safety management programs and subsystems, such as driver evaluations, for your company's fleet. It is impossible to prevent all potential accidents from occurring.

However, it is possible to greatly reduce the number of accidents within a fleet, and companies who hire competent, certified fleet safety professionals can usually achieve this goal.

## Why Is Fleet Safety Certification Relevant to Safety Directors?



Fleet safety certification is relevant to safety directors and other members of the management team for a significant reason: certified individuals who manage a fleet safety plan will save your business invaluable time and money while reducing your level of operational risk.

Fleet safety certified safety directors are familiar with implementing recordkeeping systems and meeting OSHA and DOT regulatory requirements. Fleet safety certified employees are better equipped to prevent injuries to drivers and know how to conduct an on-site investigation when things go wrong. This can help ensure that when accidents do happen, your business learns from its mistakes and develops procedures to stop them from occurring again. All of these things will help your business become more efficient, which will greatly benefit your management, employees, contractors, and customers.

## Why Should a Company Have a Fleet Safety Plan?

Your company needs a fleet safety plan for several reasons:

- To protect against liability
- To reduce the number of costly accidents that can occur
- To increase the speed of delivery
- To reduce administrative time spent on managing the fleet
- To limit the costs of hiring and training replacement workers
- To avoid lost productivity due to scheduling errors
- To avoid bad publicity and potential loss of business
- Reduce drowsiness in drivers

A business without a fleet safety plan is at risk of liability and is unlikely to be operating at maximum efficiency. Fleet safety plans will save your company money in the long term while reducing accidents and increasing the speed of delivery in the short term.

### What Makes an Effective Fleet Safety Program?



It is important to recognize what makes an effective fleet safety program. A program that skips steps or doesn't hold drivers and management accountable will not increase your company's efficiency. Your

company must develop a fleet safety program that sets standard policies. Your business can use these guidelines to create an effective fleet safety program template.

### 1. The Driver Selection Process

Make sure that during this process, you use an application, conduct an interview, and check references. You'll also want to make sure that the applicant has the right licenses, a solid driving record, and has passed the proper written and road tests. In states that allow it, you'll also want to conduct drug testing.

### 2. The Driver Training Process

After the driver has passed the application process, familiarize them with your equipment and company policies. They will also need to be familiar with your specific routes and schedules, emergency procedures, and any state or local regulations that your business is subject to.

### 3. Create a System for Driver Supervision

Your supervisors must ensure that your driver's record is reviewed on a regular basis and that all accidents are thoroughly investigated. Additionally, they must be aware of routing, scheduling, and vehicle locations to provide thorough logs and road observation reports. Questions and supervising issues can be answered during driver-supervisor meetings.

### 4. Create a Plan for Vehicle Maintenance

Vehicles must be regularly maintained, with a repair log specific to each vehicle managed by a supervisor. The log should be easily accessible both on a company network and in physical document form. Supervisors should have a plan to remove vehicles in need of repair from the use list and swap them out for a substitute vehicle. Important vehicle maintenance includes oil changes, wheel alignments, exhaust or fuel repair, and tire rotation.

### 5. Evaluating Weather and Road Conditions and Types of Cargo Being Transported

Routing and scheduling managers must consider current weather and road conditions, the types of roads being driven on, whether hazardous cargo is being transported, and potential road construction. Managers should establish an open line of communication with drivers while they are on the road.

## 6. Analyze Your Operations

Supervisors should establish a system for customizing the fleet program as well as finding and reporting any problems that may arise. Additionally, they must be aware of regulatory obligations and make sure they are met.

## 7. Pre- and Post-Operation Checklists

Each driver should have a checklist for pre- and post-operation. Drivers should check to ensure that all mirrors are functioning, lights turn on, tire pressure is safe, and oil and coolant levels are acceptable.