

Carrier Vetting Checklist

25 Essential Verification Steps Before Tendering Freight

Use this checklist to assess whether your carrier vetting process meets industry standards for fraud prevention, compliance, and risk management. The 25 items below represent the verification steps that separate high-risk carrier relationships from protected ones.

Section 1: Basic Carrier Credentials & Authority

- ☐ Carrier has active USDOT number issued by FMCSA
- ☐ Carrier has active MC (Motor Carrier) number issued by FMCSA
- ☐ Carrier authority status is ACTIVE (not pending or revoked)
- ☐ Carrier has been in continuous authority for minimum 365 days
- ☐ Carrier is authorized for property (freight/cargo) transportation
- ☐ Carrier has active authority for interstate property transportation

Section 2: Insurance & Liability

- ☐ Carrier maintains minimum \$1,000,000 USD BIPD coverage (or \$1,500,000 CAD)
- ☐ Carrier maintains minimum \$100,000 USD cargo insurance (or \$150,000 CAD)
- ☐ Insurance certificates verified and match carrier name exactly
- ☐ For NJ-based carriers: minimum \$1,500,000 BIPD coverage confirmed

Section 3: Safety & Compliance Records

- ☐ Carrier has SATISFACTORY safety rating (if rated by FMCSA)
- ☐ Carrier CSA Percentile score is less than 90% in all 5 categories
- ☐ Carrier has NO fatal crashes in past 2 years
- ☐ All crashes within 2 years documented with full breakdown
- ☐ Carrier has NO active out-of-service orders

Section 4: Identity & Fraud Prevention

- ☐ Carrier does NOT have broker authority (must operate strictly as motor carrier)
- ☐ Carrier does NOT share address with any broker-authorized entity
- ☐ Carrier has NO active identity theft alerts or fraud flags
- ☐ Carrier has NEVER used an authorized user with Non-Domiciled or Limited-Term government ID
- ☐ All manually entered carrier identifiers have been verified by compliance database
- ☐ Carrier ownership has been attested and verified (if applicable)

Section 5: Operational Verification

- ☐ Carrier has verified physical and digital business footprint OR active ELD connection
- ☐ Driver identity verified with government-issued photo ID
- ☐ Live tracking capability confirmed and active before load release
- ☐ Driver CDL status verified (no Non-Domiciled or Limited-Term designations)

How to Score Your Carrier Vetting

25-25 Checks: Full compliance. Carrier is approved with no restrictions.

22-24 Checks: Acceptable compliance. May require manager override with additional controls.

20-21 Checks: Below standard. Requires compliance approval and enhanced monitoring.

Below 20 Checks: Do not approve. Risk is unacceptable.

Critical Red Flags — Stop & Escalate

Any carrier with these conditions should be immediately rejected:

- ☐ ANY fatal crashes in past 2 years
- ☐ Active identity theft or fraud alerts
- ☐ Non-Domiciled or Limited-Term drivers in fleet
- ☐ Broker authority (for motor carrier role)
- ☐ Active out-of-service orders
- ☐ No insurance certificates or insufficient coverage
- ☐ Authority less than 365 days continuous operation
- ☐ Cannot provide active tracking or live location capability

This checklist represents industry-standard carrier vetting requirements. The goal is to eliminate high-risk carriers and catch fraud vectors before they become problems.