1 in 3

DOT audits finds a driver hired without a drug-history check

The check is a search of the Clearinghouse, the federal database of failed and refused drug and alcohol tests. Carriers must run it before every hire.

220,688
drivers barred from driving, as of November 1, 2026

175,556
of them have not started the process to return

734
barred drivers found behind the wheel at roadside in three years

$7,155
top fine for a Clearinghouse violation, such as a skipped check

Share of audits that found the check skipped, by state

United States: 33.7%



Highest

Arizona	59.0%
Utah	53.1%
Oklahoma	52.9%
Minnesota	51.3%
Nebraska	46.1%

Lowest

Kansas	15.9%
Delaware	17.1%
New Hampshire	18.3%
Georgia	21.8%
South Carolina	22.8%

Improved most since 2022

North Carolina	40.7% to **19.6%**
Oklahoma	63.2% to **42.5%**
Kentucky	44.2% to **23.6%**
Arkansas	44.3% to **23.7%**
Utah	59.7% to **42.7%**

Got worse

North Dakota	26.6% to **52.8%**
West Virginia	26.8% to **48.4%**
Iowa	25.2% to **42.1%**
Nebraska	36.2% to **50.0%**
Virginia	19.7% to **26.7%**

29 states improved and 17 got worse, 2022–23 (grey) to 2025–26 (navy).

The ten most common violations found in DOT audits

Navy: drug and alcohol testing rules. For bus companies, the skipped check ranks first.

1. Breaking a state or local traffic law	38.0%
2. No Clearinghouse check before hiring a driver	33.7%
3. No yearly Clearinghouse check	30.7%
4. False log entries	23.0%
5. No way to show when maintenance is due	15.6%
6. No maintenance record for a vehicle	13.8%
7. Hours recorded the wrong way	13.6%
8. Driver used before the pre-employment test result	13.3%
9. Not registered in the Clearinghouse	12.6%
10. Driving record check missing from the driver file	10.9%

“A carrier that skips this check is hiring blind. One in three audited carriers did exactly that.”

David Alan, CEO of Evergreen Comply

evergreencomply.com/dot-audit-violations

Evergreen Comply analysis of 56,722 FMCSA investigations, 2022 through October 2026, data as of October 30, 2026. An audit here is what FMCSA calls an investigation; new entrant safety audits are not included. Barred drivers: FMCSA Clearinghouse report. Roadside: FMCSA inspection files, November 2023 to November 2026. Fine: 49 CFR Part 386, Appendix B. Published November 27, 2026. Free to use with a link.