whip around

The
Next-Gen DVIR
Beyond Paper and ELDs

According to the CVSA's annual international roadcheck initiative, a 3-day enforcement initiative by enforcement officials (including the FMCSA in the United States), tires, lights, and cargo securement still make up around 45 percent of all out-of-service vehicle violations.

You might be wondering: Why are these types of preventable problems still such a problem for so many in the trucking industry? After all, with the ELD mandate in place since 2016 and technology advancing so rapidly, you'd expect these things not to happen quite as often.

The answer oftentimes lies in the smallest of details. A common culprit being those required daily Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports and how they are completed (or not completed).

The problem with the inspection functionality with ELD solutions

ELDs were designed for logs, not inspections. While some have a way to report if no defects are found, most can't really verify that drivers are performing a proper walk around inspection...and we know where this typically leads.

The reality is that eDVIR apps simply do a better job of producing the inspection reports you are bound by law to collect, and can alert you if they haven't been turned in. Obviously much better than paper or spreadsheets.

But not all apps are easy to use, or easy to configure by managers.

As you think beyond paper and the ELD for your pre and post-trips, here are 5 important reasons why easy-to-use apps like Whip Around will be the go-to way to inspect and maintain vehicles within the coming years.

Paper forms are error-prone and prehistoric

The alternative for many trucking companies still using DVIRs has been (and still is for many companies) paper forms.

Why mobile apps are so superior to paper

As you may know, the real problem with paper documentation comes down to actually processing these, and verifying that repairs have been completed and signed off on.

With paper forms, there are so many potential problems that can arise, like:

- Drivers forgetting to turn in DVIRs
- Misplacing these reports back in the office
- Managers or mechanics not being able to interpret them
- The rising cost of 2 or 3-ply paper booklets
- Storage and lack of readiness in the event of a DOT audit

By switching to an app-based inspection process, not only does this completely eliminate illegible handwriting or the ability for reports to get smudged or damaged, it's also a much more efficient way to gather the required signatures needed for sign-off on repairs.

Required signature sign-off

With Whip Around specifically, our DVIR app used by drivers relays these important repair notes to managers using the platform.

Managers can then create work orders to send to a mechanic. This entire process, from the DVIR completed by the driver to the work order, makes it easy to gather the 3 required signatures needed to stay compliant (the DVIR, repair, and repair sign-off).

No paper needed.

Ability to gauge the health of your fleet, from anywhere

Whether it is your mechanic, dispatcher, fleet manager, or owner, how do you typically gauge the health of your fleet?

For many companies the process is purely reactive, with the only real data point being how many trucks are in-service or out-of-service.

While vehicle data points can be collected or recorded digitally in a variety of ways, the difference lies in how this data is displayed for fleet managers to act on.

Being able to identify problematic vehicles (or ones currently in repair) over time can make a huge difference when it comes to profitability.

> ❮❮ The key benefit is productivity. Just getting the information. You can have all the data in the world, but if you don't utilize that data or get it to the people who need it, it's pretty much irrelevant ❮❮
>
> JP Crawford, Ops/IT Manager
> Steve Crawford Trucking

Big decisions – like whether or not it's wise to rent a certain percentage of vehicles, all the way down to small decisions like when oil changes are due will come out in the data.

The ability to interpret and act on data submitted after each pre or post-trip inspection is submitted by your team of drivers is key to productivity.
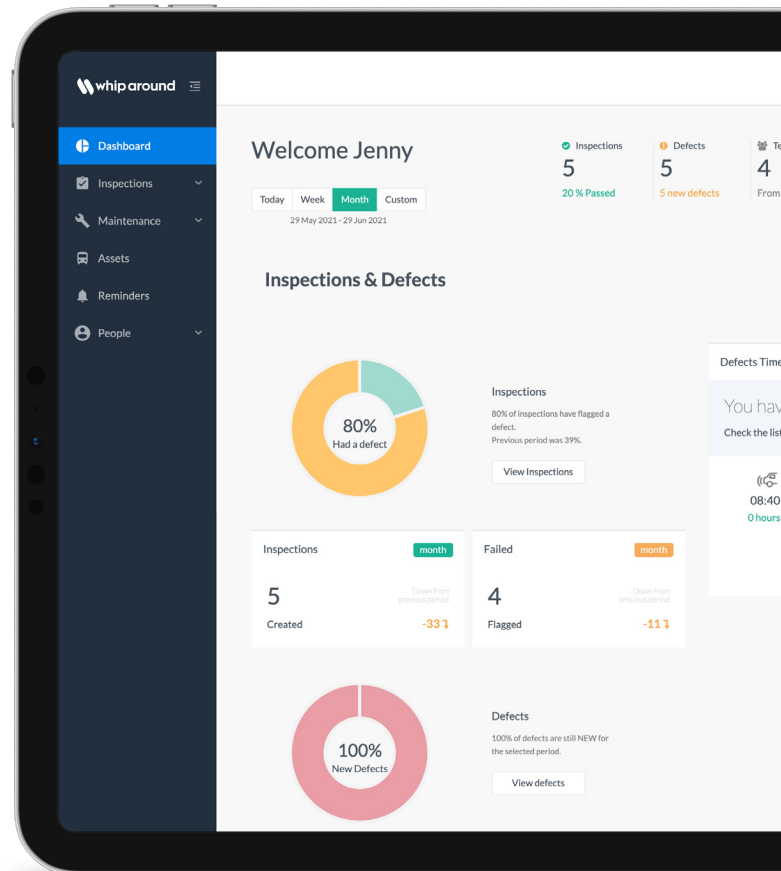
While apps are obviously a better way to collect data on your fleet, it really comes down to an integrated platform for interpreting it and acting on it over time.

Like paper, even some apps or systems (including spreadsheets), aren't ideal for displaying this information in a format that can be acted on.

If you are using a solution like GeoTab, the good news is that this specific DVIR data can be made available with an integration.
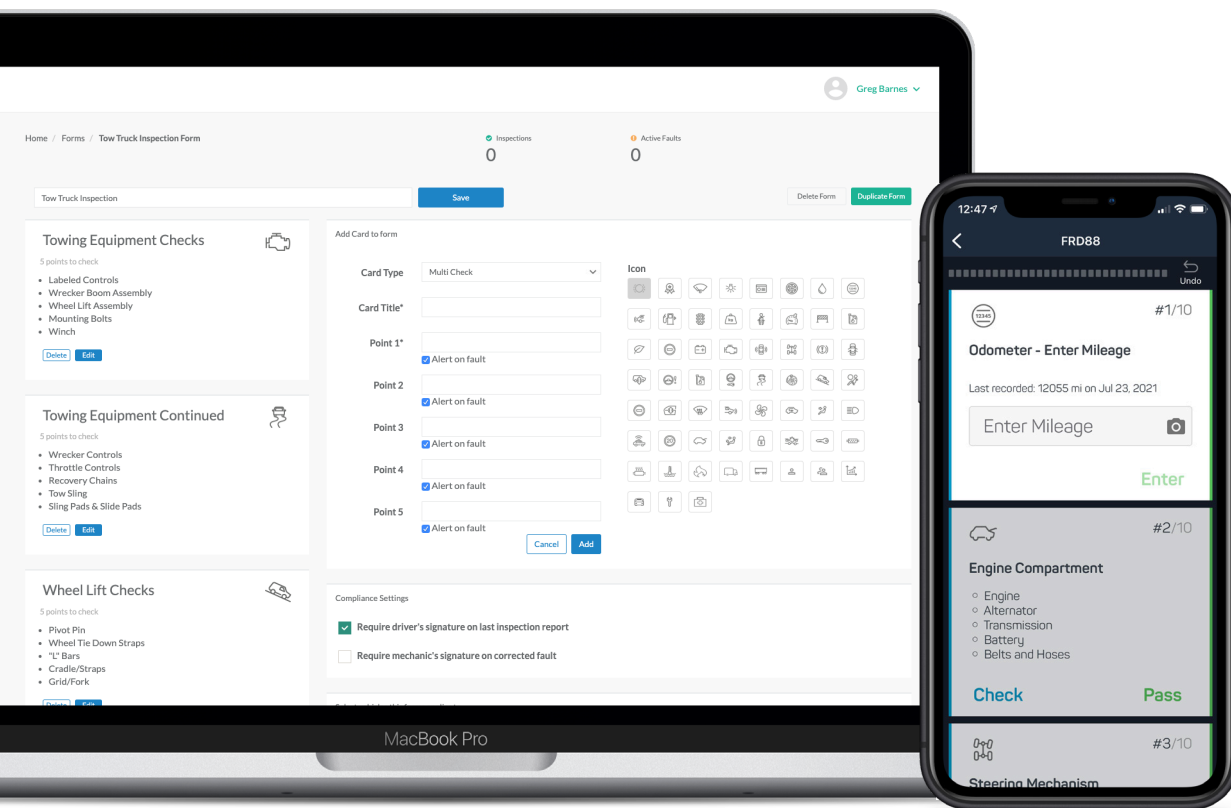
A more customized & streamlined vehicle inspection process

A big problem we've seen trucking companies struggle with in regards to paper inspection sheets (or booklets) over the years is the inability to customize them.

For example, if cab cleanliness or sanitation is an inspection item you want drivers to pay attention to, it's really too late to add them once paper is printed.

With platforms like Whip Around, this process is super-easy and configurable. Since required inspection checklists or equipment may change over time, the platform gives you the customization ability.

Not only can you require mandatory photos for certain inspection items required for a pre- or post-trip, but you can also rearrange the order of them as well.

The Whip Around form builder is truly one-of-a-kind solution to this age-old problem, by enabling managers to customize what drivers will see when using the app.

What you'll need to migrate to a digital inspection process

- All the mandatory inspection items needed for FMCSA compliance purposes (per 49 CFR 396.11)

- Any additional inspection checklist items you may need at any time

- Your vehicle and driver lists

- Any service tasks or maintenance schedules you'd like to set up for your fleet

Enhanced driver accountability

In trucking (as in many other industry verticals), driver accountability is a pressing concern that can be a tough challenge for many companies that don't know where to start.

As a manager, 3 important points that are essential to ensuring drivers are held accountable in regards to DVIR compliance are:

- Inspect -Do drivers know what they should be inspecting, and instructions for doing so?
- Verify - Is there a timestamped way to verify a walkaround has been completed?
- Document - Are there any annotations or photos you would like to require as part if the inspection process?

Why apps make driver accountability easier

As you can read in our blog post here on driver accountability, requiring certain portions of the inspection (i.e. step 3/10) be documented with a mandatory photo is something super simple to set up on the backend by managers.

Not only photo documentation, but creating a digital log of all inspections can easily help teams trace down the root cause of undocumented damage if drivers are slip-seating.

Stress-free compliance with better fleet data, documentation, and record retention

As a motor carrier, you know that FMCSA violations are a big deal that can put your business on hold.

For the 2021 fiscal year alone, there have been over 2.2 million vehicle violations according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

This has resulted in nearly half a million Out-Of-Service (OOS) violations being issued so far, oftentimes triggering a compliance investigation.

Why apps make it easy to produce records in the event of an audit

With this being such a common occurrence, ensuring you have the proper documentation should a DOT compliance official arrive at your doorstep is essential.

With Whip Around, you no longer have to scramble to collect DVIR records for the last 3 months per the FMCSA record retention requirement for DVIRs.

When it comes to ELDs specifically, the level of sophistication needed to put the pieces together for your own audit (in the event of an accident), or a DOT audit is often severely lacking.

This is why a comprehensive solution (and not just a clunky digital tool or spreadsheet) is essential.

Switching to Mobile: Easy as 1-2-3

Ready to join thousands of customers who have switched to the leading DVIR app? Switching is easier than ever.

Whether you are still on paper, using a telematics provider, or are simply looking for an efficient way for drivers to perform inspections to keep you compliant, our team can help you get set up.

1. Request a demo or start your free trial

To see how the Whip Around app and platform works, start by booking a demo with one of our product specialists at a time that works for you.

2. Send us your forms

Already have forms your team is using? No problem. With Whip Around, you can choose from our template library, or create your own.

After booking a demo, feel free to send us any forms you'd like to use.

3. Have drivers download the Whip Around app and begin inspecting ASAP

Onboarding drivers is super-simple and can be done by either texting them a download link on setup. That's it! You're ready to begin inspecting.

With our suite of driver training materials and video tutorials on how to use the app, you'll have your team up and running in no time.

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