SAFE FLEET
VEHICLE INSPECTION™
PRE- AND POST-TRIP
INSPECTIONS (DVIR)
FOR SCHOOL BUS
Do You Have Regular Pre- and Post-Trip Inspection Pain?

If you are already using a tool to help manage Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports (DVIR) and maintenance repairs, is the tool convenient and easy to use? Does the tool’s workflow align with your business process? Does the tool make managing and auditing pre- and post-trip inspections a seamless extension of your operations?

If you are performing inspections using paper forms, has the process become unmanageable? Are you missing the early signs of larger issues and trends? Are your maintenance turnaround times slow and cumbersome? Are your operational costs higher than they need to be?

The requirement for an inspection method is fairly simple. Fleets need verifiable ways to inspect their vehicles prior to and after every vehicle shift. Fleet maintenance teams need timely, clear and effective information on inspection failures to open repair requests, manage repairs and return vehicles back to active service.

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We use Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection to compare inspections and the general effectiveness among each of our contractors. We’ve even begun using games/competitions as motivation for improvement, challenging the contractors to maintain high levels of standards in exchange for prizes and recognition.”

Countywide Division Manager Paratransit, California

“We had an inspection process added to our pre-trip inspection to check the vehicle steps for snow or ice. When snow is no longer in the forecast, we simply remove that item from the inspection process.”

Fleet Manager Maryland
The solutions that help a fleet address these requirements are not so cut and dry. Fleets have been left to manage what can easily turn into a paperwork/administration nightmare for those who have chosen to go the paper route. And for those who have chosen an electronic inspection product, ongoing challenges with an inflexible tool that requires an investment in specialized hardware, limits inspection types, lacks flexibility and holds your data hostage. 

The above methods only help a fleet manage (and in many cases, not very well) a very narrow, structured set of needs. In a world in which we strive to get more done with less, it’s inconceivable that the tools that are designed to help us solve real and current challenges should hold us back and not help propel us forward. And yet that’s exactly where we find ourselves.
Easy and Painless Fleet DVIR Inspections with Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection™

There is an easier and pain-free way to manage your fleet inspections. Your business processes can seamlessly align with inspection workflows. You can easily identify recurring fleet issues early on. Your maintenance teams and vehicle operators can establish dynamic and efficient communication channels which will drive rapid repairs costs. **Essentially, there is a simpler and easier way to manage the optimization of your fleet assets and how these assets are being used — Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection™.**

As GPS location-based information is tagged to every vehicle, we use Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection to identify which parking stall each vehicle is located in for easy and fast vehicle location. Drivers no longer have to search the yard for their bus, they know exactly where it’s located and can get to it fast.”

IT Coordinator
California
Industry Fleet Inspection Challenges and the Need for Something Different

The need for DVIR Inspection tools results from the requirement to provide safe transport for students, limit liability in the event of an accident and the desire to favorably navigate an audit. But as mentioned, there are secondary reasons of no less importance.

These are a fleet’s need to increase operational up-time of each of their vehicles, knowing the right corrective action is being taken for a specific complaint (fraud prevention) and being able to confirm that the flagged issues are being taken care of correctly and efficiently.

There are also a second set of challenges being faced by a separate industry group. This group constitutes early adopters of inspection tools that weren’t designed specifically for the school bus market. These fleet managers are generally faced with inflexible contracts, having had to purchase additional hardware and associated components, rigid workflows and an à la carte support model where edits to forms and inspection templates and accessing your own data results in additional service charges.
Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection, Designed to be Flexible, Customizable, Intuitive – Pain Free

Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection presents an entirely different methodology to managing your assets. The most noticeable difference upfront being the fact that the system does not require RFID Readers or RFID tags and instead requires only a rugged, portable data terminal (Safe Fleet Mobile Data Terminal – MDT) to run the application. Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection makes use of the MDT clock, GPS and photo and video uploads to verify the accuracy and validity of inspection reports, eliminating the need for expensive and specialized equipment. And the same Safe Fleet MDT used for inspections can be used for other purposes as well so there is one less device in the bus.

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We display the Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection maintenance queue on two large screen monitors in the repair shop. Issues are displayed on these monitors in real-time as drivers flag them during inspections. We use this information to triage issues based on severity, with the easiest and simplest repair issues (such as replacement light bulbs) being resolved in mere minutes and vehicles returned to active service in record time.”

Maintenance Manager
University Fleet, Georgia
The inspection process is tuned to the specifics of the vehicle being inspected. Each inspection is documented with time and GPS coordinates. At completion, the distance traveled and the elapsed time is recorded. With the process tuned to each vehicle, the operator will only be asked to inspect items that are on the vehicle — the vehicle operator is never faced with an inspection item that is not applicable. At each inspection point, the operator will be presented with an image of what should be inspected, whether it’s a wheel-chair lift, or rear tail lights. This approach eliminates inspection decision-making — the driver follows on-screen prompts throughout the inspection process documenting what they observe, increasing the consistency of the inspections.

In addition, the operator can supplement the inspection at any time by entering a note, taking a picture or even a video. And this approach basically eliminates the need for inspection training. All the driver has to do is document their observations, the fleet manager determines the implications of the observation.

Fleet Administrator
California
The inspection process can be changed at a moment’s notice with all devices in the field receiving the updated inspection process automatically. Customers find this great for short-term demands where an item to be inspected can be added quickly for a specific purpose and just as quickly removed.

Making edits to the inspection process is not only easy to do, but also quick to roll out. The devices (MDTs) and data server are constantly pinging each other back and forth. As a result, once a change has been made to the system, all online devices get the update within minutes.

In instances where a vehicle is not connected to the internet; for instance when a driver is operating in a remote location, the operator can still conduct an inspection. The inspection template and the workflows all reside on the MDT. As soon as the MDT establishes a connection to the internet (Wi-Fi or cellular), all stored data is automatically sent to the server.

Drivers used to feel frustrated with the inspection process. Forms could easily get buried or lost and not ever be transferred to the maintenance team. Over time our drivers would stop flagging items and would often feel frustrated and ‘not heard.’ That’s not the case with Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection. If a driver fails anything, the report is immediately sent to maintenance. Once the item has been repaired, Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection conveys the repair details to the driver. There is now complete accountability on both sides and our maintenance teams and drivers couldn’t be happier.”

Operations Supervisor
University Fleet, Washington
We had been using a program to help us manage fleet refuelling metrics. The tool was no longer being supported and we were looking for a replacement when it occurred to us we might already have a capable solution in Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection. We had a “refuelling inspection” created that requires entering the amount of fuel purchased, the dollars spent (taking a photo of the pump data) and entering the last four digits of the credit card being used for payment. The end result provides full, auditable refueling reports daily for each vehicle including overall fuel economy.”

General Manager
Paratransit Agency, California

Open Architecture, Your Data is Your Data to Use as You See Fit

With Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection, you own your own data. The system provides many standard reports on vehicles and drivers, but you can also easily export your data for use in other business intelligence tools for increased operational insight. It’s your data, you should be able to extract maximum value from it. Our application programming interface (API) supports downloading your data at no additional cost.
Operational Insight for Fleet and System Managers

There are also benefits to Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection that are very specific for the system or fleet manager. In a busy school district with 50 drivers who are all running routes at the same time, it might be impossible for a fleet manager to note an anomaly or area of concern.

At the end of pre-trip inspections as an example, Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection enables a supervisor to quickly review the length of time each vehicle operator spent on each inspection and the distance each operator walked as well as the results of the inspection. Any inspection that was done too quickly or the driver clearly did not walk around the vehicle (they only traveled 10 feet) is identified immediately.
The supervisor can further determine if any anomalies are just that – one off situations, or whether behaviors are regularly or frequently occurring. If the data indicates there are repeating behaviors that need to be corrected, the system can support behavior coaching. As an example, if a driver knows the system will only ever ask for an odometer reading, the driver can remain behind the wheel without inspecting the full vehicle. Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection can insert random requirements that will ask the driver to take an image during an inspection at random inspection points. A supervisor can also make changes by operator so the selections the operators have to choose from are randomized within each inspection item. This forces the vehicle operator to always read each selection before selecting the correct answer.

Ensuring no child is left behind on a bus is a priority for any fleet. We are using Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection to help us address this requirement. Each vehicle operator must take a video of a passenger area inspection (footage of both rows of empty seats), proving an inspection was done and no child was left behind. These videos are instantly uploaded for easy review by management.”

State Safety Supervisor – Day Care Fleet Operator
Texas

How Much Value You Extract From Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection is Up to You

The flexibility of Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection lends itself to maximum value add for the fleet manager.

Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection gives fleet managers tools they haven’t had before. Tools that enable easy and seamless vehicle inspection, synchronized vehicle maintenance and real and actionable insight to issues that are very difficult to otherwise surface.
We contract out the operation and maintenance of our vehicles. When we started using Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection we noted a very large amount of inspection issues occurring daily with no real resolution movement. We decided we would use Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection to track repair items with our contractor and implemented a system where the contractor was fined for having over 20 repair orders open at one time. Repair backlogs started to shrink immediately. The system worked so well we were able to reduce the number of spare vehicles we had on hand as there was no longer a need for them.”

Agency Transit Manager
California
Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection is an incredibly flexible fleet inspection tool that provides a school district with the ability to inspect and repair vehicles in a timely and efficient manner. The benefits of using the tool extend beyond inspection and repair, enabling better communication between vehicle operators and maintenance teams, better insight into driver and fleet behavior and better alignment with your business processes.

We often had to conduct inspections early in the morning during the dark. Our drivers struggled with holding a flashlight in one hand and the device in the other, while simultaneously entering information into the inspection templates. We suggested that the light in the MDT be incorporated with the inspection application so we could turn it on when working in low light conditions. The development team took it one step further and now we have a solution with a flashlight that turns on automatically when lighting is low and turns off once the inspection is over.”

Fleet Manager
Washington State

How would you like to use Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection?

Learn more about Safe Fleet Vehicle Inspection:
www.seon.com/trip-inspections

1.877.630.7366
safefleet.net