



Here are suggestions to include in the maintenance approach for your vehicles.

- **Reinforce the importance of pre- and post-trip inspections.** These inspections are the first step in discovering developing problems. Drivers are keenly attuned to slight changes in the way a vehicle operates. Make sure you let them know the key role they play in the maintenance plan and encourage them to use **driver vehicle inspection reports (IID)** to report any issues they find.
- **Track PM compliance.** Develop a way to track whether vehicles scheduled for maintenance have been into the shop to get their maintenance service performed. When you find that maintenance has been deferred, bring that vehicle asset into the shop as soon as possible.
- **Avoid deferring maintenance.** Do you know how often maintenance is deferred on your vehicles? If not, make sure to find that out and uncover the reasons why it is happening. There may be some legitimate reasons to occasionally defer maintenance, but it should not happen frequently. Once you determine just how often maintenance is being deferred, try to eliminate the causes of it. While it may not be possible to avoid all deferred maintenance, the percentage of vehicles for which maintenance is deferred should be low. Tracking PM compliance will help ensure that those vehicles that had maintenance deferred get into the shop as soon as possible.
- **Standardize maintenance inspections.** Use a standardized PM (IID) form so that all vehicles are subjected every time to the same maintenance process. This ensures consistency.
- **Insist that any outside service providers follow your or a consistent preventive maintenance inspection procedures.** The goal is to have all your vehicles under the same scrutiny no matter where the maintenance is performed. Your outside maintenance provider should follow your procedures; you should not have to adjust to follow theirs.



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- **Invest in ongoing technician training.** New technology is coming into the market all the time, and there are always tweaks to existing technology. Make sure that the technicians that you use have ongoing continual educations and are up to date on the latest maintenance procedures.

Using a systematic approach to maintenance means that all your trucks will get the maintenance attention they need, and you will benefit from fewer roadside break

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