

5 Components of an Effective Fleet Safety Policy

Businesses that operate vehicle fleets face a variety of risks, including vehicle damage, employee injuries, liability claims and regulatory scrutiny. A well-developed fleet safety policy helps reduce these exposures by establishing clear expectations for drivers and vehicle management.

1. Driver Qualification and Screening

An effective fleet safety policy should define who is eligible to operate company vehicles. At a minimum, employers should verify that drivers hold valid licenses, review motor vehicle records (MVRs) and confirm drivers have appropriate experience for the vehicles they will operate.

MVR reviews should continue regularly after hire to identify new violations, suspensions or other concerns. For commercial drivers, employers should also verify required commercial driver's licenses, endorsements and medical certifications. Consistent screening helps identify high-risk drivers before incidents occur and demonstrates due diligence if claims arise.

2. Safe Driving Standards

Safe driving expectations should be clearly documented and consistently enforced. Policies should address seat belt use, distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding and the appropriate use of company vehicles.

Written standards help eliminate ambiguity and create accountability across the organization. Employers should distribute policies during onboarding and obtain signed acknowledgments to confirm employee understanding.

3. Training and Ongoing Education

Driver training should begin with a baseline orientation covering company policies, vehicle operation and essential safety practices. Refresher training should be provided regularly to reinforce expectations and address emerging risks.

Training topics may include defensive driving, hazard recognition, adverse weather conditions and fatigue

management. Drivers involved in incidents or repeated violations may require targeted retraining. Maintaining training records can help demonstrate an organization's commitment to safety and compliance.

4. Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance

Vehicle condition plays a critical role in fleet safety. Drivers should conduct routine inspections of key components such as brakes, tires, lights and fluid levels before operating vehicles.

Employers should establish preventive maintenance schedules based on manufacturer recommendations and ensure identified defects are corrected promptly. Thorough maintenance documentation supports compliance efforts and helps reduce costly breakdowns and accidents.

5. Incident Reporting and Corrective Action

Every vehicle incident, regardless of severity, should be reported and investigated. A formal process should identify who reports incidents, what information must be collected and when reports are due.

Investigations should focus on determining root causes, including driver behavior, vehicle condition, route planning or environmental factors. Findings may lead to additional training, policy updates or disciplinary action. Consistent incident review helps organizations identify trends and continuously improve fleet safety performance.

Building a Stronger Fleet Safety Program

A fleet safety policy is only effective when it is consistently implemented and enforced. Regular policy reviews can help ensure safety practices remain aligned with operational changes, new technologies and evolving regulations. Organizations that maintain clear standards, provide ongoing training and proactively address risks are better positioned to reduce losses and maintain safe operations.

Your Risk Transfer Resource

Contact the insurance professionals at Fairview Insurance Agency for more information about developing fleet safety and loss control programs tailored to your organization's unique risks.

What Every Business Owner Should Review Before Their Insurance Renewal

Businesses evolve over time. New locations, additional employees, expanded services and changing market conditions can all alter a company's risk profile. As a result, insurance coverage that was adequate a few years ago may no longer provide sufficient protection.

Conducting a thorough insurance review before renewal can help identify coverage gaps, ensure policies reflect current exposures and potentially improve renewal outcomes. Business owners should focus on the following key areas before their next renewal date.

Evaluate Recent Business Changes

Changes in operations can create new insurance needs. Expanding into new locations, adding services or taking on larger projects may increase liability exposures and require higher coverage limits or updated certificates of insurance.

Business owners should also review staffing and payroll changes, new professional services and any changes in business structure that could affect coverage.

Review Property Values and Business Income Coverage

Rising construction costs and inflation have increased replacement values for many commercial properties. If property values have not been updated, businesses may be underinsured.

Owners should review buildings, equipment and inventory annually and confirm whether coverage is based on replacement cost value or actual cash value. Business interruption coverage should also be reviewed to ensure it reflects current revenue, expenses and recovery needs.

Reassess Liability Limits

Liability risks continue to evolve, and coverage limits that were adequate a few years ago may no longer provide sufficient protection.

Business owners should review limits for general liability, commercial auto and employers' liability coverage. An umbrella policy may provide additional protection, while

companies offering professional services should evaluate whether E&O coverage is needed.

Evaluate Cyber Insurance Needs

Cyber incidents remain a significant business risk, yet many standard policies provide limited coverage for data breaches, ransomware and other cyber events.

A standalone cyber policy can help cover breach response costs, business interruption, cyber extortion and third-party liability claims. Businesses should also review cybersecurity controls, as strong safeguards may positively influence underwriting decisions.

Look Beyond the Declarations Page

Important coverage limitations are often found within policy language rather than on the declarations page. Exclusions for risks such as flood, earthquake or cyber incidents can create costly coverage gaps if they are overlooked.

Working with an insurance professional can help identify exclusions, evaluate endorsements and determine whether additional coverage is needed.

Prepare Early for Renewal

Business owners should begin the renewal process at least 90 to 120 days before policy expiration. Gathering updated financial information, payroll data, property values and details regarding operational changes can help support a smoother renewal process and potentially more favorable terms.

For more risk management guidance, contact us today.