Carrier vetting checklist

12 checks to run before you tender a load · Heft IQ

Carrier _____

MC / USDOT _____

Load / lane _____

Checked by _____

Date _____

Before onboarding: is this a real, authorized carrier?

☐ **1. USDOT number and active for-hire authority**
Checked in FMCSA SAFER or QCMobile. Authority active, not pending, revoked or inactive.
Result / note _____

☐ **2. Authority age**
Date granted. New authority means less history: add checks or a lower load-value limit.
Result / note _____

☐ **3. Insurance on file and in force**
Certificate from the insurer or agent, not the carrier. Federal minimum for general freight: $750,000 (49 CFR 387.9).
Result / note _____

☐ **4. Identity matches**
Phone, email domain, address and remit-to match FMCSA and the insurer.
Result / note _____

☐ **5. Signed broker-carrier agreement**
Covers no re-brokering, insurance requirements and claims.
Result / note _____

Safety: would a reasonable broker have concerns?

☐ **6. Safety rating**
Satisfactory, Conditional, Unsatisfactory or unrated. Unsatisfactory stops the tender; Conditional needs a documented decision.
Result / note _____

☐ **7. Inspection and crash history**
Out-of-service rates and crashes, relative to the carrier's size.
Result / note _____

☐ **8. Changes since the last load**
Rating, authority and insurance re-checked at this tender, not just at onboarding.
Result / note _____

At tender: is this the right carrier for this load?

☐ **9. Lane and equipment fit**
Has run this lane and equipment type, and how it performed.
Result / note _____

☐ **10. Performance and trust history**
On-time pickup, claims, detention disputes and no-shows on your loads.
Result / note _____

☐ **11. Load-value limit**
Within the ceiling for this carrier's risk tier, or second approval obtained.
Result / note _____

After tender: can you prove what you did?

☐ **12. Decision record saved**
Carriers considered, what each check returned, why this one, who approved. Kept unchanged.
Result / note _____

Approved by _____ **Date / time** _____