draylo

AI-native carrier vetting & onboarding

CARRIER VETTING CHECKLIST

Run it in this order, on every load - load one and load one thousand. Consistency is what makes vetting both safe and defensible.

- [ ] **1. Confirm FMCSA operating authority & status**

  Active authority for this freight type; legal name and address match who you think you're dealing with. Broker-only authority presenting as a carrier = stop.

- [ ] **2. Confirm no out-of-service order**

  "Allowed to operate" is Yes and no OOS date. Tendering to an out-of-service carrier is indefensible at any rate.

- [ ] **3. Weigh the age of the authority**

  New isn't disqualifying - but a very young authority earns extra scrutiny on identity, contact, and insurance. Set your threshold; apply it every time.

- [ ] **4. Verify insurance - both layers**

  Layer 1: COI limits and dates against your minimums. Layer 2: the federal filing - a COI only proves coverage as of its issue date; cancellations must be filed with FMCSA.

- [ ] **5. Match the W-9 to the registered identity**

  The name you'd pay, the authority on record, and the rate confirmation should be the same entity. A mismatch is the classic double-brokering tell.

- [ ] **6. Verify the contact out-of-band**

  Don't confirm through the number or email on the load offer - that's what an impostor controls. Call the contact on the FMCSA registration.

- [ ] **7. Document the decision, the day you make it**

  What you checked, what you decided, and why - dated at decision time. After Montgomery, a contemporaneous note is an exhibit; a memory is not.

- [ ] **8. Set up re-checks**

  Carriers go bad after you clear them. Re-verify before tendering to anyone you haven't used recently; monitor active carriers for changes.

Free tools for steps 1-4: draylo.us/tools/fmcsa-check (authority, status, out-of-service, insurance on file in one pass) and draylo.us/tools/coi-reader (reads a COI against your minimums).

The full walkthrough with the reasoning behind each step: draylo.us/blog/new-freight-broker-carrier-vetting-checklist

From the New Broker's Playbook at draylo.us. Draylo runs steps 1-4 automatically and saves step 7's dated record on every decision. Not legal advice.