

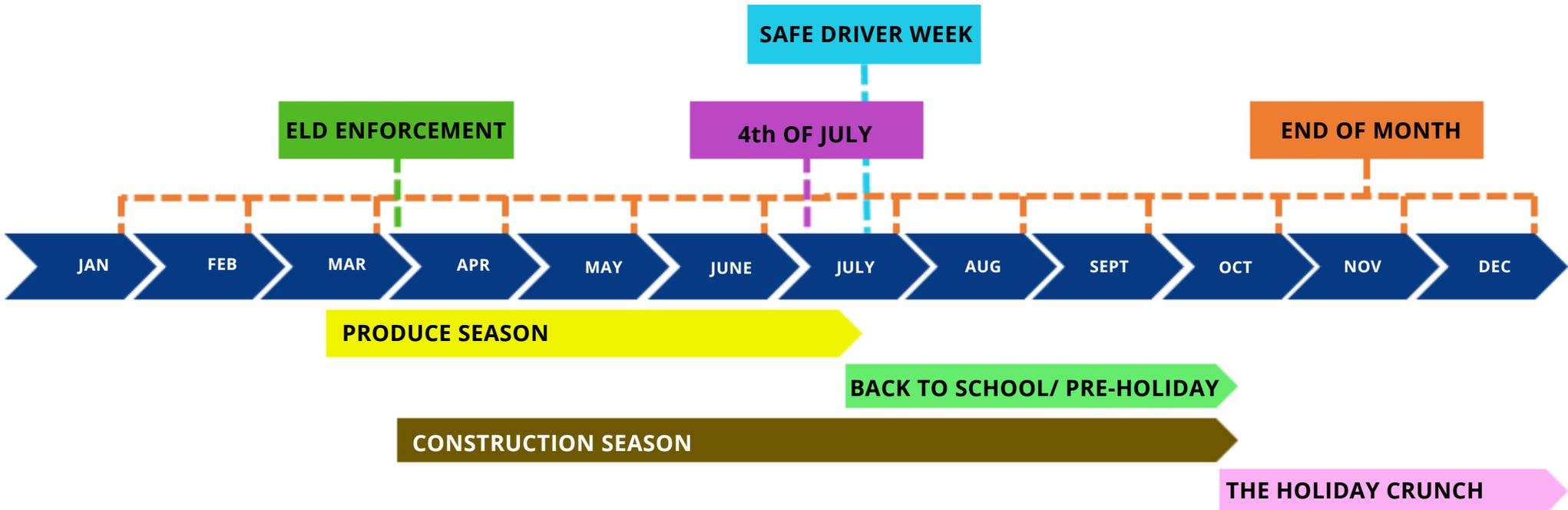


2018 Logistics Calendar



Important Dates/Time periods for Your 2018 Logistics Calendar:

In logistics, business activity tends to ebb and flow along with the major holidays and peak seasons. With extremely tight capacity, working with your logistics provider and planning ahead will make a big difference in getting the coverage you need. While some events can not be planned for, such as severe weather, below are a few major dates/time periods to keep in mind as you plan your shipping activities in 2018:



Specific Dates:

ELD Enforcement

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced a phased-in approach to the ELD mandate that would delay out-of-service criteria until April 1, 2018. As of April 1, if there is non-compliance, the driver and tractor will be placed out-of-service. The carrier will have to get a fresh driver out to the unit to complete the shipment.

Until April 1st, each jurisdiction has the discretion to issue citations for non-compliance with the ELD rule during roadside checks. If a citation is issued, it would be classified as “no points cite,” meaning that it would not affect the Safety Measurement System that feeds into the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability scores. Starting on April 1st and going forward, citations will be issued and points assessed.

4th of July

The 4th of July, which falls on a Wednesday this year, generally causes substantial service disruptions. Drivers tend to take additional time around the holiday. This reduced number of active drivers, combined with the big seasonal push for the summer kickoff can cause capacity to be further constrained. Odyssey anticipates an even more significant impact this year with the timing of the 4th, so shippers should plan for this heading into month-end June and the week of the 4th.

Operation Safe Driver Week

Scheduled for July 15th - 21st this year, the CVSA's Operation Safe Driver Week will find law enforcement agencies across North America engaged in heightened traffic safety enforcement and education. Activities are held across the United States, Canada, and Mexico with the goal of increasing commercial vehicle and non-commercial vehicle traffic enforcement, safety belt enforcement, driver roadside inspections, and driver regulatory compliance. This additional oversight could impact delivery times and possibly create shipment delays as law enforcement cracks down on unsafe drivers and/or vehicles.

End of Month / End of Quarter

As every month and every quarter starts to come to a close it is common to see capacity tighten. In an attempt to meet quotas or fill orders before the end of month/end of quarter deadlines, many shippers increase the number of loads during this time. This surge in shipments further tightens the over-the-road capacity that is already stretched extremely thin. If possible, shippers should work with their customers to set up a distribution plan that limits the end of month/end of quarter rush and increases their chances of covering their load for an economical price.

Time Periods:

Produce Season

Depending on the weather, produce season generally runs from as early as mid-March to around mid-July. According to the DAT North American Freight Index, spot market freight volume typically rises about 30% in the spring and peaks in April. This shift sets the tone for other modes as well. In response to higher refrigerated capacity demand, dry van carriers, railroads, and LTL carriers also commonly see a tightening in capacity and thus an increase in rates. With the new ELD regulations and the relatively healthy economy, this year's capacity issues are expected to be tighter than normal. The high demand for equipment at this time has the potential to impact shippers even outside of the produce industry, especially on the East Coast.

Construction Season

Construction season also revolves around the warmer weather, peaking in the summer months. Shipments of raw materials typically used in construction, such as metals, peak during the Spring and fade when the colder Winter months arrive.

Back to School / Pre-Holiday Shipping

This “peak” season generally runs from August to October. Parents and children across the nation prepare to go back to school and retailers prepare for the upcoming holiday shopping time. This means that both manufacturers and distributors increase their shipments to warehouses, and retailers increase their shipments to the end consumers. During this time, carriers tend to be dealing with high volumes, so it's important for shippers to schedule their shipments early.

The Holiday Crunch

In November, the last-minute push to get products onto the store shelves and/or into the hands of e-commerce customers goes into full effect. This can create capacity crunches across most U.S. trucking lanes as carriers scramble to pick up good-paying orders that will help boost their year-end bottom lines. In most cases, the peak shipping season ends after Thanksgiving, so if shippers can plan ahead and avoid the rush, they may be able to secure capacity and better pricing by waiting until December to ship (although thanks to the last-minute nature of many e-commerce shipments this “valley” has been gradually flattening out).