Same; general supervision and inspection of carriers; exception; liability for damages. (a) The commission shall have general supervision of all common carriers doing business in this state and shall inquire into any neglect or violations of the laws of this state by any common carrier or by the officers, agents or employees thereof. From time to time, the commission shall carefully examine and inspect the condition of each common carrier, its equipment, the manner of its conduct and its management with reference to the public safety and convenience. The commission's duty extends to all common carriers except pipelines transporting hazardous liquids as defined in the hazardous liquid pipeline safety act of 1979 (49 U.S.C. 2001 et. seq.), as amended.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed as relieving any common carrier from its responsibility or liability for damage to person or property.