

CDL Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist

The Complete Walk-Around Sequence | FreightSocial.net

Print this. Take it to the yard. Walk the truck ten times. Pass the test.

1. ENGINE COMPARTMENT

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Oil level (dipstick between min/max) | ■ Coolant level (reservoir between lines) |
| ■ Power steering fluid level | ■ Windshield washer fluid |
| ■ Serpentine/accessory belts (no cracks, fraying) | ■ Hoses (no bulges, cracks, leaks) |
| ■ Hose clamps tight | ■ No leaks under engine (oil, coolant, fuel) |
| ■ Wiring (no cracks, fraying, loose) | ■ Steering gear box secure |
| ■ Power steering pump (no leaks) | ■ Steering linkage / pitman arm / drag link |
| ■ Water pump (no leaks at gasket) | ■ Air compressor and belt |
| ■ Alternator mounted, belt secure | ■ Hood latches secure when closed |

2. IN-CAB INSPECTION

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Parking brake SET | ■ Seat belt functions and latches |
| ■ Fire extinguisher (charged, pin in, accessible) | ■ Three reflective triangles present |
| ■ Spare fuses (if applicable) | ■ Mirrors adjusted (L flat, L convex, R flat, R convex) |
| ■ Oil pressure gauge (up after start) | ■ Temperature gauge (normal range) |
| ■ Voltmeter/ammeter (showing charge) | ■ Air pressure gauge (100-125 PSI) |
| ■ Steering free play (< 2 in / 10 degrees) | ■ Windshield (no cracks or obstructions) |
| ■ Wipers functional, blades good | ■ Heater and defroster functional |
| ■ Horn works | ■ Headlights high and low beam |
| ■ Four-way flashers ON for walk-around | |

3. AIR BRAKE CHECK [Critical Section]

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Air builds 85-100 PSI in < 45 seconds | ■ Governor cuts out at 120-145 PSI |
| ■ Leakage brakes OFF: < 2 PSI/min (single) < 3 (combo) | ■ Leakage brakes ON: < 3 PSI/min (single) < 4 (combo) |
| ■ Low air warning activates BEFORE 60 PSI | ■ Spring brakes pop out at 20-45 PSI |
| ■ Brake pedal firm, no drift (hold 5 sec) | |

4. FRONT OF VEHICLE (Outside)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Both headlights working, lenses intact | ■ Both front turn signals working |
| ■ Windshield (check from outside) | ■ Front bumper secure |
| ■ Front axle beam (no cracks/damage) | ■ Steering linkage / tie rods / drag link |
| ■ Leaf springs or air bags (no cracks/breaks) | ■ Spring mounts, hangers, U-bolts secure |
| ■ Shock absorbers (no leaks/damage) | ■ Brake drums/rotors (no cracks) |
| ■ Brake pads/shoes (adequate thickness) | ■ Brake hoses/lines (no leaks, cracks) |
| ■ Slack adjuster (< 1 inch free play) | ■ LEFT tire: 4/32 tread, no cuts/bulges/cords |
| ■ LEFT valve stem and cap | ■ LEFT wheel/rim (no cracks, lugs tight) |
| ■ RIGHT tire: 4/32 tread, no cuts/bulges/cords | ■ RIGHT valve stem and cap |
| ■ RIGHT wheel/rim (no cracks, lugs tight) | |

CDL Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist (continued)

5. DRIVER SIDE (Front to Rear)

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|--|--|
| ■ Fuel tank secure, no leaks, cap tight | ■ DEF tank secure, cap tight (if equipped) |
| ■ Steps and handrails secure | ■ Frame rails (no cracks/damage) |
| ■ Drive shaft secure, U-joints intact | ■ Exhaust (no leaks near fuel/air lines) |
| ■ Air lines (no leaks, not rubbing/dragging) | ■ Electrical connections secure |
| ■ Rear axle springs/mounts/U-bolts | ■ Rear shock absorbers |
| ■ Rear brake drums/rotors | ■ Rear brake pads/shoes |
| ■ Rear slack adjusters (< 1 inch) | ■ Rear brake hoses and lines |
| ■ Rear tires: 2/32 tread, no cuts/bulges/cords | ■ Rear valve stems and caps |
| ■ Rear wheels/rims (no cracks, lugs tight) | ■ Dual tire spacing (no contact between tires) |

6. REAR OF VEHICLE

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Tail lights working | ■ Brake lights working |
| ■ Turn signals working (both sides) | ■ Red reflectors present |
| ■ Mudflaps present, not torn, correct height | ■ License plate present, light works |
| ■ Doors secure, hinges good, latches work | ■ Landing gear fully raised, handle secured |
| ■ Fifth wheel locked, no gap, release arm locked | |

7. PASSENGER SIDE (Rear to Front)

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|---|--|
| ■ Mirror checks (same as driver side) | ■ Fuel tank (if equipped this side) |
| ■ Frame rails (no cracks/damage) | ■ Rear axle: springs, mounts, shocks, brakes |
| ■ Rear tires, wheels, rims, lugs | ■ Air and electrical lines |
| ■ Exhaust system | ■ Front axle: springs, shocks, brakes |
| ■ Front tire, wheel, rim, lugs (pass. side) | ■ Steps and handrails secure |

TEST DAY TIPS

- Narrate EVERYTHING out loud. No credit for what you don't say.
- Walk clockwise. Engine to driver side to rear to passenger side.
- Do NOT rush. Slow and thorough beats fast and incomplete.
- Steer tires: 4/32 min tread. All other tires: 2/32 min.
- Practice air brake check separately until it's automatic.
- Walk the truck 10 times before test day. Out loud. Every time.