



Pre-trip Tractor Trailer Inspection Procedures

Pre-trip Before You Go!

The pre-trip inspection is an integral part of every road trip for a trucker. It is meant to be a thorough check of the semi truck, trailer and load, to ensure that everything is correct and safe, prior to the truck driver, departing on a trip. Any damage or issues needing attention, are to be addressed before departure.

As the Driver approaches the vehicle, note the general condition and look for fluid leaks underneath.

Tip the hood of the truck

- Check fluid levels: oil and coolant levels.
- For the pre-trip, look for oil, fuel, coolant, power steering fluid leaks... a leak is either a problem or a potential problem.
- Make sure caps are tight for the radiator, oil filler, power steering fluid and the dip stick is seated properly.
- Observe at the engine block. Check for leaks, fluid running down the side of the engine. Look at the hoses. Check for

wear, cracking or fraying. Inspect fan belts for proper tension and signs of wear.

- Take a look at the engine fan. Make sure there are no pieces out of any of the blades.
- Look for any exposed or bare wires, or wires which appear out of place.
- Check windshield wiper fluid level.
- Scan steering axle tires for uneven wear, nails, etc.
- Take a look at the shock absorbers, ball joints and king pins for wear and proper lubrication.

Leave the truck hood up - continue with pre-trip inspection

- Observe all tires on your rig as well as the trailer
- Visually inspect the air lines and electrical cord, to ensure they are properly connected
- Visually check the 5th wheel to make sure it's coupled to the trailer

- Ensure the landing gear is ok, legs are up and secure, and crank handle is secure
- Trailer suspension – air bags are up or there are no broken springs
- Brake pads. Look for good thickness.
- Brake adjustment indicators. Look for proper positioning.
- Look over the entire unit thoroughly for body damage.

Start the vehicle

- Depress the clutch and start the engine. (in neutral)
- Observe gauges to be sure oil pressure is good and electrical system in charging
- Gently ease the clutch out slowly and carefully, just in case there's a problem (if you do this too quickly, you could launch yourself across the parking lot).
- Do not high idle the truck right away. Let it idle at 650 RPM
- Glance at the gauges again to ensure all is ok and air pressure is building.
- Turn on all lights and flashers and exit the vehicle.
- Do a visual of the motor, looking for leaks



- Observe belts for proper tension and that they are turning properly
- Close the hood and lock it down.

Circle check the vehicle again

- Be certain all lights for proper function on truck and trailer.
- In the truck, use a piece of wood or find a way to depress the brake pedal, so the operation of the exterior lights can be checked
- Listen for air leaks as you walk around the unit.
- Remove the block of wood from the pedal, turn off lights not needed.
- Back up a few feet (Be sure you've already checked behind the trailer!)
- This helps ensure that all trailer wheels are turning.
- Pull forward about 6 feet
- Pull the trailer brake, to ensure it's working properly and to make sure the fifth wheel is correctly coupled to the trailer
- Pull ahead another 6 feet and stop the truck with the foot brake
- This is a good way to test the foot brake is operating correctly.

Then, and only then, complete required documentation on the log books, for pre inspection report/ circle check.

Any problems encountered should be addressed before beginning the trip and indicated on the log book pre-trip inspection report. As the driver of the vehicle, you are responsible for this vehicle report. If you find the vehicle has issues, have them fixed before departing.

General Inspection Items

TRACTOR:

General Condition

- Cab/Doors/Windows
- Body/Doors
- Oil Leak
- Grease Leak
- Coolant Leak
- Fuel Leak
- Other

Engine Compartment

- Oil Level
- Coolant Level
- Belts
- Other

In-Cab

- Gauges/Warning Indicators
- Windshield Wipers/Washers
- Horn(s)
- Cab Housekeeping
- Heater/Defroster/AC
- Mirrors
- Steering
- Clutch
- Service Brakes
- Parking Brakes
- Emergency Brakes
- Triangles
- Fire Extinguisher
- Hard Hat
- Other Safety Equipment
- Spare Fuses
- Seat Belts
- Radio
- Other

Exterior

- Lights
- Reflectors
- Suspension
- Tires
- Wheels/Rims/Lugs
- Battery
- Exhaust
- Brakes
- Air Lines
- Light Line
- Fifth-Wheel
- Mudflaps
- Other

TRAILER:

General Condition

- Lights
- Reflectors
- Brakes/Suspension
- Tires
- Wheels/Rims/Lugs/Hubs
- Landing Gear/Pins/Winch
- Mudflaps
- Load
- Flag/Warning Light/Overhang
- Binders
- Licenses
- Frame/Standards/Bolsters
- Other _____

Review your company's checklist and fill it out completely.

SAFETY TRAINING SIGN-IN

Company Name: _____ Date: _____

Subject: Pre-trip Tractor Trailer Inspection Procedures

The following employees participated in this training.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

