

PART THREE

10. Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection Test

11. Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

12. On Road Driving Test

**THIS PART IS FOR DRIVERS
WHO NEED TO TAKE A SKILLS TEST**

SECTION 10

PRE-TRIP VEHICLE INSPECTION TEST



**THIS SECTION WILL ASSIST ALL COMMERCIAL DRIVERS
IN TAKING THE PRE-TRIP VEHICLE INSPECTION TEST**

SECTION 10 - PRE-TRIP VEHICLE INSPECTION TEST

THIS SECTION COVERS

- All Commercial Motor Vehicles
- School Bus Only
- Coach / Transit Buses

During the pre-trip inspection, you must show that the vehicle is safe to drive. You may have to walk around the vehicle and point to or touch each item and explain to the examiner what you are checking and why. You will NOT have to check under the hood or under the vehicle.

10.1 ALL VEHICLES

During the pre-trip inspection study the following vehicle parts for the type of vehicle you will be using during the CDL Skills Test. You should be able to operate each control of the vehicle. With the recent revisions in the testing procedures, when being administered the pre-trip inspection, you may be required to verbalize all of the following information listed in this section.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- Check for a properly charged and rated fire extinguisher.
- Check for three red reflective triangles.
- Check for spare electrical fuses.
- Six (6) fuses or three (3) liquid flares.

Note: If the vehicle is not equipped with electrical fuses, you must mention this to the examiner.

WIPERS/WASHERS

- Check that wiper arms and blades are secure, not damaged and operate smoothly.
- If equipped, windshield washers must operate correctly.

HORN

- Check that air horn and/or electric horn work.

PARKING BRAKE

- Apply parking brake **only** and make sure that it will hold the vehicle by shifting into a lower gear and gently pulling against the brake.

SERVICE BRAKE

- Wait for normal air pressure, release the parking brake, move the vehicle forward slowly (about five [5] mph), apply the brakes firmly using the brake pedal. Note any vehicle “pulling” to one side, unusual feel or delayed stopping action. This test may show you problems, which you otherwise would not know about until you needed the brakes on the road.

HYDRAULIC BRAKE

- Pump the brake pedal three (3) times, then hold it down for five (5) seconds. The brake pedal should not move (depress) during the five (5) seconds.
- If equipped with a hydraulic brake reserve (back-up) system, with the key off, depress the brake pedal and listen for the sound of the reserve system electric motor.
- Check that the warning buzzer or light is off.

AIR BRAKE (AIR BRAKE EQUIPPED VEHICLE ONLY)

- Failure to perform an air brake check will result in an automatic failure of the Vehicle Inspection Test. Air brake safety devices vary. However, this procedure is designed to see that any safety device operates correctly as air pressure drops from normal to a low air condition. For safety purposes, in areas where an incline is present, you will use wheel chocks during the air brake check. The proper procedures for inspecting the air brake system are as follows:
 - *With the engine running, build the air pressure to governed cut-out (typically 100-125 psi). Shut off the engine. Turn on the key but do not start the engine, chock your wheels, if necessary, release the parking brake(s). Check the air gauge to see if the air pressure drops more than two (2) psi in one minute for single vehicles and more than three (3) psi in one minute for combination vehicles.*
 - *Then, fully apply pressure to the foot brake and hold for one (1) minute. Check the air gauge to see if the air pressure drops more than three (3) psi in one (1) minute for single vehicles and four (4) psi in one (1) minute for combination vehicles. If the air loss is greater, check for leaks and fix before driving the vehicle. You could lose your brakes while driving.*
 - *Begin fanning off the air pressure by rapidly applying and releasing the foot brake. Low air warning devices (buzzer, light, flag) should activate before air pressure drops below 60 PSI.*
 - *Continue to fan off the air pressure. At approximately 40 PSI to 20 PSI on a tractor-trailer combination vehicle, the tractor protection valve and parking brake valve should close (pop out). On other combination vehicle types and single vehicle types, the parking brake valve should close (pop out).*
 - *Check rate of air pressure buildup. When the engine is at operating RPM, the pressure should build from 85 to 100 psi within 45 seconds in dual air systems. (If the vehicle has larger than minimum air tanks, the buildup time can be longer and still be safe. Check the manufacturer's specifications.)*

SAFETY BELT

- Check that the safety belt is securely mounted, adjusts, and latches properly.

LIGHTS/REFLECTORS

- Check that all external lights and reflective equipment are clean and functional. Light and reflector checks include:
 - *Clearance lights (red on rear, amber elsewhere).*
 - *Headlights (high and low beams).*
 - *Taillights.*
 - *Turn signals.*
 - *4-way flashers.*
 - *Brake lights.*
 - *Red reflectors (on rear) and amber reflectors (elsewhere).*

Note: Checks of brake, turn signal and 4-way flashers functions must be done separately.

AIR/ELECTRICAL CONNECTORS

- Connect air supplies and electrical power to trailer.
- Check that trailer air connectors are sealed and in good condition.
- Check that glad hands are locked in place and there are no audible air leaks.
- Check that trailer electrical plug is firmly seated and locked in place.

LEAKS

- Check for signs of fluid puddles or dripping on the ground under the engine and under the fuel tank.

TIRES

- Check tread depth (minimum on front tires 4/32 and 2/32 on rear tires), check inflation, tread evenly worn, look for cuts or other damage on the treads or sidewalls. Valve caps and stems not missing, broken, or damaged. Retread not separating from tire (**no regrooved tires on front wheels**).

10.2 SCHOOL BUS ONLY

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- In addition to checking for spare electrical fuses (*if equipped*), three (3) portable emergency warning devices and a properly charged and rated fire extinguisher, school bus drivers must also:
 - *Produce and inspect a twelve (12) item first aid kit, and*
 - *A wrecking or pry bar.*

LIGHTING INDICATORS

- In addition to checking the lighting indicators listed in this manual, school bus drivers must also check the following lighting indicators (*internal panel lights, if equipped*).
 - *Alternately flashing amber lights indicator, if equipped.*
 - *Alternately flashing red lights indicator.*
 - *Strobe light indicator, if equipped.*

LIGHTS/REFLECTORS

- In addition to checking the lights and safety devices, school bus drivers must also check the following (*external*) safety devices:
 - *Strobe light, if equipped.*
 - *Stop arm light.*
 - *Alternately flashing amber lights.*
 - *Alternately flashing red lights.*
 - *Crossing control arm.*

STOP ARM

- Check the stop arm to see that it is mounted securely to the frame of the vehicle. Also, check for loose fittings and damage.

TIRES

- Check tread depth (minimum on front tires 4/32 and 2/32 on rear tires), check inflation, tread evenly worn, look for cuts or other damage on the treads or sidewalls. Valve caps and stems not missing, broken, or damaged.
- Tire inflation must be checked with a tire gauge.
- No regrooved, recapped or retreaded tires on front wheels.

PASSENGER ENTRY/LIFT

- Check that the entry door is not damaged, operates smoothly and closes securely from the **inside**.
- Hand rails are secure and the step light is working, if equipped.
- The entry steps must be clear with the treads not loose or worn excessively.
- If equipped with a handicap lift, look for leaking, damaged or missing parts and explain how lift should be checked for correct operation. Lift must be fully retracted and latched securely.

EMERGENCY EXIT

- Make sure that all emergency exits are not damaged, operate smoothly, and close securely from the **inside**.
- Check that any emergency exit warning devices are working.

SEATING

- Look for broken seat frames and check that seat frames are firmly attached to the floor.
- Check that seat cushions are attached securely to the seat frames.

10.3 COACH/TRANSIT BUS

PASSENGER ENTRY/LIFT

- Check that entry doors operate smoothly and close securely from the **inside**.
- Check that hand rails are secure and, if equipped, that the step light(s) are working.
- Check that the entry steps are clear, with the treads not loose or worn excessively.
- If equipped with a handicap lift, look for any leaking, damaged or missing part, and explain how it should be checked for correct operation. Lift should be fully retracted and latched securely.

EMERGENCY EXITS

- Make sure that all emergency exits are not damaged, operate smoothly and close securely from the **inside**.
- Check that any emergency exit warning devices are working.

PASSENGER SEATING

- Look for broken seat frames and check that seat frames are firmly attached to the floor.
- Check that seat cushions are attached securely to the seat frames.

DOORS/MIRRORS

- Check that the entry/exit doors are not damaged and operate smoothly from the **outside**. Hinges should be secure with seals intact.
- Make sure that the passenger exit mirrors and all external mirrors and mirror brackets are not damaged and are mounted securely with no loose fittings.

TIRES

- Check tread depth (minimum on front tires 4/32 and 2/32 on rear tires), check inflation, tread evenly worn, look for cuts or other damage on the treads or sidewalls. Check to be sure that valve caps and stems are not missing, broken, or damaged.
- No regrooved, recapped or retreaded tires on front wheels.