

PRE-TRIP INSPECTION CHECKLIST
SEMI-TRACTOR TRAILER-HYDRAULIC BRAKES

NOTE: CDL Specialists, LLC provides this information as a courtesy to our trainees. All information is presumed to be accurate and up-to-date. The company assumes no responsibility for misprints, out-of-date, or otherwise inaccurate information. The only difference between this list and the current CDL manual is this list is in the order in which the inspection should be conducted vs. being in alphabetical order. Please refer to the current Indiana CDL manual for all CDL skills testing requirements.

Re-production is strictly prohibited!

ESTIMATED TIME: If done properly, this should take approximately 15-20 min from start to finish.

HYDRAULIC BRAKE CHECK

Failure to explain and demonstrate the hydraulic brake check correctly will result in an automatic failure of the CDL Vehicle Inspection test.

- Verify the vehicle is in park/neutral and brakes are set.
- Identify the normal height of the brake pedal and inspect brake pedal pressure. Push down on the pedal once and release it to ensure it is properly working.

Inform the examiner that you are ready for the Brake Check. He will then read the Brake Check instructions to you. The instructions are: "The brake check must be performed as outlined in the cdl manual with the numbers stated as they appear in the latest manual. Failure to conduct the brake check as outlined in the cdl manual will result in an automatic failure of the skills test."

This is what needs to be stated for the Hydraulic Brake Check.

- Must be stated and performed properly**
 - I will pump the brake pedal **three (3) times** and then hold it down for **5 seconds** or as specified by the manufacturer. The brake pedal should not move after initial application and should be firm and have a sufficient amount of reserve for brake pedal application.

INTERNAL INSPECTION

- LIGHTING INDICATORS ON DASH**
 - Left turn, Right Turn, 4-ways, Clearance, High beam, ABS on dash and side of trailer, DEF indicator **(If Equipped)**
 - ABS Light comes on and goes out
- EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**
 - Spare electrical fuses
 - **3** Red reflective triangles, **6** fuses or **3** liquid burning flares
 - Properly charged, Mounted securely fire extinguisher

- WINDSHIELD & TRAFFIC MONITORING DEVICES. (MIRRORS / CAMERAS)**
 - Windshield is clean, no cracks or flaws
 - Mirrors are clean and adjusted properly **(If Equipped)**
 - Cameras are clean and working
- WIPERS & WASHERS (Must Operate Both)**
 - Mounted securely to wiper arm
 - Not broken or cracked
 - Both operate and work properly
- HEATER & DEFROSTER (Must Operate Both)**
 - Both operate and work properly
- HORN**
 - Must operate and work properly

PARKING BRAKE TUG TEST

- Apply the parking or emergency brake. **Put the vehicle in drive and tug against the brakes to ensure they hold.**

SERVICE BRAKE TEST

(When ready for this, inform the examiner. For SAFETY and Vehicle location restrictions, you may be performing this later or at a different location before the backing skills are performed. Your examiner will instruct you at that point on where/when you will perform this.)

- Place vehicle in a forward gear
- Pull forward slowly to 5MPH
- Apply the brake and stop

Vehicle shouldn't pull to either side

EXTERNAL LIGHT CHECK

(Must tell examiner to assist)

- LIGHT OPERATION CHECK (FRONT & REAR)**
 - Left turn, Right Turn, 4-ways, Clearance, High beam, Low beam, Taillights, Brake lights.

FRONT OF VEHICLE/ENGINE AREA

- LENSES**
 - Proper color, clean, not broken or missing

ENGINE COMPARTMENT

- FLUID LEVELS**
 - Oil, Coolant, and Power Steering, fluids are all full (*If Hydraulic Brakes*) Checks Brake Fluid
- FLUID & AIR LEAKS**
 - Check for puddles and drips on the ground
 - Inspect all hoses and air lines for condition and leaks, both fluid and air.
- STEERING GEAR BOX, HOSES, ALL VISABLE CONNECTING LINKS, ARMS, & RODS FROM THE STEERING BOX TO THE WHEEL**
 - Mounted securely
 - Not cracked or broken
 - Not leaking fluid
 - No missing nuts, bolts, or cotter keys
 - All visible connecting links, arms, rods, joints, & sockets are not worn or loose.

STEERING AXLE (FRONT AXLE)

- TIRES (ICD)**
 - **(I)nflation** – Check for proper inflation using a tire gauge
 - **(C)ondition** – no bulges or cuts
 - **(D)epth** –checked with depth gauge
 - Minimum of 4/32” Tread Depth
 - Valve stems are accessible
 - Not broken or cracked
 - Valve cap present
- RIMS**
 - Not cracked or broken
 - No welding repairs
 - Stud holes are not elongated (out of round)
- LUG NUTS & STUDS**
 - None are missing or lose
 - No shiny threads or rust trails
 - No broken studs

FRONT SUSPENSION

- SPRING MOUNTS-Front & Back, LEAF SPRINGS, (If Equipped) AIR BAGS, & SHOCK ABSORBER**
 - Mounted securely
 - Not cracked or broken
 - All aligned and not shifted
 - Shocks not leaking hydraulic fluid
 - (If Equipped) Air bags not leaking air
 - Vehicle is sitting Level, front to back, side to side

FRONT BRAKES

- BRAKE LINES or HOSES**
 - Mounted securely
 - Not cracked, broken, or leaking brake fluid
- BRAKE CONTAMINATES**
 - No grease or oil on the brake linings

SIDE OF VEHICLE (TRUCK & TRAILER)

- LENSES & REFLECTORS**
 - Proper color, clean, not broken or missing
- REFLECTIVE TAPE (SIDE AND REAR OF TRAILER)**
 - Present, Secure and not torn
- TRAFFIC MONITORING DEVICES (CAMERAS or MIRRORS & BRACKETS)**
 - Mounted securely
 - Clean, not cracked or bent
 - No Missing Parts
- BATTERY, CABLES, & BOX/COVER**
 - Mounted securely
 - Not cracked or worn
 - No excessive corrosion
 - Box cover or door is secure
- FUEL TANK & (If Equipped) DEF TANK**
 - Mounted securely
 - Cap is tight
 - No leaking from Tanks or Lines
- FRAME(S) (TRUCK, TRAILER, TANDEMS)**
 - No cracks, breaks, or broken welds
 - No Holes in the cargo floor
 - (*If Equipped with sliding tandem axles*) Trailer tandem release lever and pins are secure

COUPLING SYSTEM

- ❑ **ELECTRICAL LINES, CONNECTORS**
(Must mention both ends.)
 - Seated, Locked in place
 - Not cracked, broken
 - Electrical line not spliced
 - All lines are not tangled or dragging
- ❑ **5TH WHEEL SKID PLATE**
 - Securely Mounted by the platform
 - Not cracked, broken, or excessively worn
 - Properly lubricated
- ❑ **KINGPIN, APRON, GAP**
 - Kingpin is in place
 - Not bent or broken
 - No gap between apron and 5th-wheel
 - Apron is properly lubricated
- ❑ **LOCKING & SAFETY DEVICES**
(Jaws, Release arm, Locking pins)
 - Locking jaws are secured around the kingpin
 - No play between kingpin and jaws/lever
 - Release arm is in the locked position and safety latch is in place
 - Locking pins are not damaged and fully engaged

TRAILER

- ❑ **LANDING GEAR & CLEARANCE**
(Support Frame, Handle, Pads)
 - Landing gear is fully raised
 - Not damaged
 - No missing parts
 - Handle secure
 - Clearance-Enough space between landing gear and tractor so they do not hit each other during turns.

REAR OF TRAILER

- ❑ **LENSES & REFLECTORS**
 - Proper color, clean, not broken or missing
 - Reflective tape on trailer sides and rear is present, secure, not torn