

Section 12

Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

This Section Covers:

- ✓ **Skills Test Scoring**
- ✓ **Skills Test Exercises**

Your basic control skills could be tested using one or more of the following exercises off-road or somewhere on the street during the road test:

- ✓ Straight line backing.
- ✓ Offset back/right.
- ✓ Offset back/left.
- ✓ Alley dock.

These exercises are shown in Figures 12-1 through 12-6.

12.1 Scoring

- ✓ Crossing Boundaries (encroachments)
- ✓ Pull-ups
- ✓ Outside Vehicle Observations (looks)
- ✓ Final Position/Inside Parallel

Encroachments

The examiner will score the number of times you touch or cross over an exercise boundary line or cone with any portion of your vehicle. Each encroachment will count as an error.

Pull-ups

When a driver stops and pulls forward to clear an encroachment or to get a better position, it is scored as a "pull-up". Stopping without changing direction does not count as a pull-up. You will not be penalized for initial pull-ups. However, an excessive number of pull-ups will count as errors.

Outside Vehicle Observations (Looks)

You may be permitted to safely stop and exit the vehicle to check the external position of the vehicle (look). When doing so, you must place the vehicle in neutral and set the parking brake(s). Then, when exiting the vehicle, you must do so safely by facing the vehicle and maintaining three points of contact with the vehicle at all times (when exiting a bus, maintain a firm grasp on the handrail at all times). If you do not safely secure the

vehicle or safely exit the vehicle it may result in an automatic failure of the basic control skills test.

The maximum number of times that you may look to check the position of your vehicle is two (2) except for the Straight Line Backing exercise, which allows one look. Each time you open the door, move from a seated position where in physical control of the vehicle or on a bus walk to the back of a bus to get a better view, it is scored as a "look".

Final Position/Inside Parallel

It is important that you finish each exercise exactly as the examiner has instructed you. If you do not maneuver the vehicle into its final position as described by the examiner, you will be penalized and could fail the basic skills test.

12.2 Exercises

12.2.1 – Straight Line Backing

You may be asked to back your vehicle in a straight line between two rows of cones without touching or crossing over the exercise boundaries. (See Figure 12.1)

12.2.2 – Offset Back/Right

You may be asked to back into a space that is to the right rear of your vehicle. You will drive straight forward the outer boundary. From that position you must back the vehicle into the **opposite** lane until the front of your vehicle has passed the first set of cones without striking boundary lines or cones. (See Figure 12.2)

12.2.3 – Offset Back/Left

You may be asked to back into a space that is to the left rear of your vehicle. You will drive straight forward the outer boundary. From that position, you must back the vehicle into the opposite lane until the front of your vehicle has passed the first set of cones without striking boundary lines or cones. (See Figure 12.3)

12.2.4 – Alley Dock

You may be asked to sight-side back your vehicle into an alley. You will drive past the alley and position your vehicle parallel to the outer boundary. From that position, back into the alley bringing the rear of your vehicle within three feet of the rear of the alley without touching boundary lines or cones. Your vehicle must be straight within the alley/lane when you have completed the maneuver. (See Figure 12.4)