



This guide is a memory aid for performing a Class A CDL pre-trip inspection.

Use this guide as a memory aid ONLY. Every company's pre-trip inspection varies, as do pre-trip inspection tests administered as part of formal CDL training.



Tips For Inspecting Vehicle Components:

Any Component	Belts	Fluid Reservoirs	Hoses	Metal Parts	Rubber Parts
Check that it doesn't have excessive play, and no splits or cuts.	Check that it doesn't have excessive play, and no splits or cuts.	Check dipstick locations and that all fluids are at proper levels.	Check that there are no splits or cuts, and no leaks. Check that it's secure at both ends.	Check that they're securely mounted and not broken or cracked. Check that there are no illegal welds.	Check that there are no abrasions, bulges, or cuts.



- Double-check the VIN, insurance, and registration
- Inspect on level ground and with a clear view, away from other vehicles.
- Keep the key in your pocket
- Use wheel chocks before going under any part of the vehicle
- Wear a high-visibility vest, gloves, and eye protection

What To Check:

- Are the lights on the front of the vehicle securely mounted, clean, and intact?
- Are there any leaks under the vehicle?
- Is the vehicle leaning or sagging?
- Is there any visible damage to the vehicle?
- Is the cargo secured?



What To Check:

- Fluid levels
- Fluid leaks
- Belts & Hoses
- Alternator
- Water Pump
- Air Compressor
- Axle
- Steering shaft, gear box, and linkage
- Springs
- Shock absorbers & suspension
- Brake chambers & hoses



WHEELS / TIRES

- Rims
- Tires
- Lug nuts
- Valve stems

FRONT OF VEHICLE

- Lights
- Windshield
- Wipers
- Hood
- Grill
- License plate
- Bumper
- Leaks

DRIVER'S SIDE & PASSENGER SIDE

- Driver door & mirror
- Fuel tank & cap
- Lights & reflectors
- Hood latch
- Emergency equipment

REAR OF VEHICLE

- Clearance
- Reflectors
- Lights
- Turn signals
- Brakes
- Marker lamps
- Doors & latches
- Cargo securement devices
- DOT bumper
- Splash guards

TRAILER

- Wheels tires, rims, and lug nuts
- Lights & reflectors
- Frame & crossmembers
- Tandem release
- Floor
- Landing gear
- Air lines
- DOT tape
- Doors or ties
- Splash guards
- Electrical connections
- Suspension

COUPLING

- Mounting bolts / welds
- Pintle hook / ball
- Safety latch / locking device
- Safety chains / cables
- Eye / coupler
- Drawbar / tongue



IN-CAB / ENGINE START

- Seat Belt
- Turn signal indicator
- Steering wheel
- Clutch pedal
- Seat
- Horns
- Mirrors
- Windshield
- Wipers & washers
- Oil & air pressure
- Ammeter/volts
- Water temperature
- Heater & defroster
- Paperwork
- Emergency equipment

BRAKES

- Parking Brake Check
- Service Brake Check
- Air Brake Checks

Air brake checks can be broken down into three categories.

You can remember them using the acronym **LAB**.

L: Testing for leaks.

A: Testing the alarms.

B: Testing the buttons.