



DRIVER VEHICLE INSPECTION



INTRODUCTION

To help protect themselves and the public, employees who drive a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) should conduct a driver vehicle inspection prior to hitting the road. Driver vehicle inspections help drivers identify and correct damaged or suspected problems with a vehicle before the vehicle is on the road.

TYPES OF INSPECTIONS

Depending on the type of commercial motor vehicle that an employee drives, any combination of the following inspections should be performed:

- Pre-trip
- On-the-road
- Post-trip

Depending on the company, employees may either use a paper or electronic driver vehicle inspection report to inspect vehicles.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN A DRIVER VEHICLE INSPECTION

Note: Below is a general list of what employees should look at when performing a driver vehicle inspection. Employees should refer to their company's driver vehicle inspection report for a complete list of what they should inspect for their vehicle.

When performing a driver vehicle inspection, employees should look at the following:

- Batteries
- Belts
- Brakes
- Body of the vehicle
- Engine
- Fuel tanks
- Horn
- Hoses
- Lights (including head, tail, stop, dash, turn indicators, and emergency flashers)
- Mirrors
- Oil pressure
- Radiator
- Reflectors
- Safety equipment (may include fire extinguisher, reflective triangles, spare bulbs, spare fuses, back-up alarm, and seatbelts)
- Steering
- Wheels and lugnuts
- Windows (including windshield wipers)



DRIVER VEHICLE INSPECTION

PERFORMING A DRIVER VEHICLE INSPECTION AND FILLING OUT A REPORT

When performing a driver vehicle inspection, employees should use their company's driver vehicle report and mark items that are defective or in need of repair. Forms can differ between companies, so employees should fill them out according to their company's policy.

When performing a driver vehicle inspection, employees should do the following:

- Chock the tires (if applicable).
- Remove the key from the vehicle and put it in your pocket.
- Do NOT smoke while performing a driver vehicle inspection.
- Take a visual overview of the portion of the vehicle that they are inspecting (Employees should start at the front of the vehicle and work their way towards the back.)
 - When performing a visual overview, employees should look to see if the vehicle is leaning. Leaning vehicles could indicate flat tires or other problems.
- Be aware of areas that may be hot. Hot areas will normally be a concern when performing on-the-road or post-trip inspections. Hot areas include batteries and engine areas.
- Ensure that all fluids are at appropriate levels. Top fluids off as needed.
- Note all fluid leaks. Leaks should be cleaned up as soon as possible to prevent someone from slipping and falling. Leaked fluid should be cleaned up in accordance with all local and federal laws.
- Mark and make notes of defective items on the driver vehicle inspection report (DVIR) as you conduct the inspection.
- Wheels should be checked for illegal welds. A wheel should be marked as defective or damaged if it has been welded.
- Ensure that tires have the appropriate amount of tread. Tires should be marked if they do not have the appropriate amount of tread remaining.
 - If your vehicle has dual tires, you should inspect the gap between the tires for debris. Debris should be removed before leaving the inspection area.
- Ensure that gauges are working properly during the inspection. Improperly working gauges could indicate a problem with the vehicle or the gauge.
- Ensure that seatbelts latch. Do NOT just look at them.
- It is recommended that employees get assistance when checking the lights. One person should be in the cab of the vehicle while the other person looks at the lights to ensure that they are on.
- Remove chocks before performing any movement checks when inspecting brakes.
- Turn in your completed report as directed by your supervisor.

CONCLUSION

Driver vehicle inspections and reports are a vital step in keeping both professional drivers and the public safe. Inspections should be performed in accordance with all local and federal laws. By taking a few minutes to inspect a vehicle, employees can help in the prevention of accidents on the road.