Truck Inspection Checklist

A DOT-style pre-trip inspection for commercial trucks covering tires, brakes, lights, coupling, fluids and load securement.

Inspected by _____ Date _____

Unit / ID _____ Location _____

Engine Compartment & Fluids	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Check engine oil level and condition	☐	☐	☐
Check coolant level and inspect the radiator	☐	☐	☐
Check power steering and washer fluid	☐	☐	☐
Inspect belts and hoses for cracks or wear	☐	☐	☐
Look for leaks under the engine and components	☐	☐	☐
Check the battery is secure with clean connections	☐	☐	☐

Tires & Wheels	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Check tire pressure and inflate to spec	☐	☐	☐
Measure tread depth against the legal minimum	☐	☐	☐
Inspect for cuts, bulges, uneven wear or debris	☐	☐	☐
Check for missing or loose lug nuts and rust streaks Rust trails running from a lug nut often signal looseness, while shiny metal threads can indicate movement.	☐	☐	☐
Inspect rims for cracks or damage	☐	☐	☐
Confirm dual tires are not touching and valve caps are present	☐	☐	☐

Brakes & Air System	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Perform an air brake leak-down and build-up test Shut off the engine, release the brakes, and press the foot pedal to ensure pressure drop remains normal.	☐	☐	☐
Check the low-air warning and emergency brake function	☐	☐	☐
Inspect brake chambers, slack adjusters and linings	☐	☐	☐
Check brake drums or rotors for cracks or wear	☐	☐	☐
Inspect air lines and connections for leaks or damage	☐	☐	☐
Drain air tanks of moisture as required Moisture and oil buildup in tanks can freeze in cold weather or degrade brake valves over time.	☐	☐	☐

Lights & Signals	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Test headlights on low and high beam	☐	☐	☐
Check brake lights, tail lights and turn signals	☐	☐	☐
Confirm clearance, marker and reflector lights work	☐	☐	☐
Test the four-way hazard flashers	☐	☐	☐
Check the horn and backup alarm	☐	☐	☐
Clean lenses and reflectors for visibility	☐	☐	☐

Coupling & Trailer	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Confirm the fifth wheel is locked with no gap Check the locking jaws are closed around the kingpin	☐	☐	☐
Inspect the kingpin and apron for damage	☐	☐	☐
Check that the release arm is in the locked position	☐	☐	☐
Connect and inspect air lines and the electrical cord	☐	☐	☐
Check landing gear is fully raised and secured Ensure the crank handle is locked into its cradle so it does not catch road debris or swing loose.	☐	☐	☐
Inspect the trailer frame, doors and mud flaps	☐	☐	☐

Cab & Load Securement	OK	DEFECT	N/A
Test steering play, mirrors and the windshield	☐	☐	☐
Check seat belt, gauges and warning lights	☐	☐	☐
Confirm the fire extinguisher and emergency triangles are present Verify the extinguisher gauge shows full pressure, the pin is sealed, and three triangles are present.	☐	☐	☐
Verify the load is secured, balanced and within weight limits	☐	☐	☐
Inspect straps, chains, tarps and tie-downs	☐	☐	☐
Confirm required permits and paperwork are aboard	☐	☐	☐

Notes / defects found

Driver sign-off (DVIR)

Odometer reading: _____

Result (No defects / Defects found): _____

Defects reported to (supervisor): _____

Signature: _____