

Truck Inspection Checklist

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

Engine Compartment & Fluids

- ☐ 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

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Inspect rims for cracks or damage
- ☐ Confirm dual tires are not touching and valve caps are present

Brakes & Air System

- ☐ Perform an air brake leak-down and build-up test
- ☐ 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

Lights & Signals

- ☐ 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

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Inspect the trailer frame, doors and mud flaps

Cab & Load Securement

- ☐ 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 load is secured, balanced and within weight limits
- ☐ Inspect straps, chains, tarps and tie-downs
- ☐ Confirm required permits and paperwork are aboard