CDL Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist

Free Class A CDL walkaround checklist | CSM Trucks

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Date: _____	Unit #: _____	Driver: _____	Signature: _____

Work the zones in order. Check each item, and confirm it meets the pass note beside it before you drive. Any item that fails is a defect to fix (or write up) before the trip.

1. Engine Compartment (engine off)

☐	**Engine oil**	At or near the full mark
☐	**Coolant**	Proper level, checked only when cool
☐	**Power steering fluid**	At its mark, no weeping at pump or lines
☐	**Leaks**	No fresh puddles under engine, transmission, or steering box
☐	**Belts**	Snug, no fraying or glazing
☐	**Hoses and clamps**	Firm and secure, no cracks, bulges, or soft spots; clamps tight
☐	**Steering box**	Secure, no loose or missing bolts, no leaks
☐	**Steering linkage**	Pitman arm, drag link, tie rod, and shaft tight; cotter pins intact
☐	**Suspension**	Springs, hangers, shackles, and U-bolts intact; shocks secure
☐	**Steer tires**	Tread at least 4/32 in., even wear, no cuts, bulges, or exposed cord
☐	**Wheels and rims**	No cracks; no loose, missing, or rust-streaked lug nuts
☐	**Front brakes**	Drums, hoses, and chambers secure; slack adjusters consistent

2. Cab and Air Brakes

☐	**Safe start**	Parking brake set, transmission in neutral
☐	**Gauges**	Oil, temperature, voltage, and air normal; no warning lights
☐	**Mirrors**	Clean and adjusted down both sides
☐	**Wipers and washers**	Working; blades not torn or hardened
☐	**Horn**	City and air horn sounding
☐	**Emergency equipment**	Charged fire extinguisher, spare fuses, three warning triangles
☐	**Governor**	Cut-out about 125 psi, cut-in about 100 psi
☐	**Static leak (engine off, released)**	Under 2 psi/min single, under 3 psi/min combination
☐	**Applied leak (held at 90 psi)**	No more than 3 psi/min single, 4 psi/min combination
☐	**Low-air warning**	Light and buzzer on before 60 psi
☐	**Spring brakes**	Parking valve pops out between 20 and 45 psi

Based on FMCSA 49 CFR Parts 392, 393, and 396 and the state CDL manual (AAMVA model). Pass criteria are general; confirm the air brake figures and the skills test with your own state's manual. Free to print and share.

3. Coupling System

☐	**Glad hands**	Locked, sealed, grommets not damaged
☐	**Air lines**	Secure, not cut, cracked, rubbing, or dragging
☐	**Electrical line**	Seated, no corrosion or exposed wire
☐	**Fifth wheel**	Securely mounted, no cracks, no missing or loose bolts
☐	**Locking jaws**	Fully closed around the kingpin, no gap
☐	**Kingpin**	Not bent; trailer flush on the fifth wheel
☐	**Apron and gap**	Apron flush; no gap between upper and lower plates
☐	**Release arm**	Locked, safety latch engaged
☐	**Landing gear**	Fully raised, crank handle secured, clear of the ground

4. Trailer

☐	**Frame**	Crossmembers and rails free of cracks, bends, or rust-through
☐	**Doors**	Open, close, and latch; hinges and seals intact
☐	**Cargo securement**	Straps, chains, and binders not cut or frayed
☐	**Trailer tires**	Tread at least 2/32 in., correct inflation, no damage
☐	**Wheels and rims**	No cracks; all lug nuts tight
☐	**Trailer brakes**	Chambers, slack adjusters, and hoses secure; linings within limits
☐	**Lights**	Tail, brake, turn, and marker lights working at every position
☐	**Reflectors and tape**	Reflectors and conspicuity tape clean and unbroken

Defects / Notes

Write up any item that failed, the defect found, and the correction made before the truck returns to service.

☐ No defects found this inspection

Corrected by: _____ Date: _____