

Printable Cdl Pre Trip Inspection Cheat Sheet

A Call to
ACTION

Essential
CHECKLIST

A
FleetWatch
INITIATIVE

Pre-Trip Inspection for Trucks

This is an essential procedure for both driver maintenance managers and drivers - it will ensure less costly down-time, and a safer truck means safety for the truck driver and the road users.

Driver _____ Vehicle Reg # _____ Beginning Km's _____ Date _____

Instructions: Inspect each item on the vehicle:

- Do a pre-trip inspection on every shift or driver change of 12 hours
- Each sheet to get completed by driver, mechanic & supervisor

Engine/Fluid checks, Interior and Exterior					
	OK	X		OK	X
Check windscreen for damage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check reflectors and chevron	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check under vehicle for oil, water, fuel or fluid leaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for emergency triangles and fire extinguishers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coolant level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check fire extinguisher service date	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engine oil level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for jack and tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clutch fluid level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for first aid kit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brake fluid level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check internal heater, air conditioning, fans and defroster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fuel level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for licence disc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check caps and dipsticks are correctly fitted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for RTQS documents - COF etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check V belt condition and tension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheels: Check tyre condition and look for trapped stones or other debris	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drain air tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check wheel nuts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check warning lights and buzzers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check spare wheel condition and security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start engine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check tyre pressures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check oil pressure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check valve caps are fitted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check air pressure build up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check number plates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check alternator charging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check tow hitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check water temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grease and check 5th wheel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check hooter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Load must be secure and protected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check wiper blade operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brakes: Check system for air leaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check steering operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check foot brake operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check rear view mirrors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check hand brake operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check lights: - head	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check exhaust brake operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- running	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check tachograph operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- tail and parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if the seat belt is operational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- brake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if air suzie couplers are operational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- indicators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if trailer plug is operational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check if side window winders are operational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bunks secured properly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check if doors close properly and lock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify defects below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check if the seat mechanism / airbag is operational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
No loose object in cab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Does any problem circled require the vehicle to be taken out of service? YES / NO

Has a Supervisor been notified? YES / NO Supervisor Signature: _____

Name: _____

Problem Report (Describe all problem areas circled above): _____

Date: _____ Drivers Signature: _____

Maintenance Work Order Issued? YES / NO Work Order No: _____ Date Opened: _____

Date Vehicle Returned to service: _____ Mechanic Signature: _____

Remarks: _____

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Printable CDL Pre Trip Inspection Cheat Sheet

As a commercial driver, a thorough understanding of the pre-trip inspection process is crucial for ensuring safety on the road. A printable CDL pre-trip inspection cheat sheet can serve as an invaluable tool for both novice and experienced drivers alike. This article will explore the importance of pre-trip inspections, provide a comprehensive checklist, and discuss how to effectively utilize a cheat sheet for optimal results.

Understanding the Importance of Pre-Trip Inspections

Pre-trip inspections are mandatory for commercial drivers and are critical for several reasons:

1. **Safety:** Ensuring that every component of the vehicle is in working order can prevent accidents caused by mechanical failures.
2. **Regulatory Compliance:** DOT regulations require pre-trip inspections to ensure compliance with safety standards.
3. **Cost Efficiency:** Identifying issues early can save drivers and companies money on repairs and prevent costly roadside breakdowns.
4. **Professionalism:** A thorough inspection demonstrates a driver's commitment to safety and professionalism, enhancing their reputation in the industry.

The Components of a Pre-Trip Inspection

A pre-trip inspection typically involves checking various parts of the vehicle to ensure they are functioning correctly. The following sections detail the critical components that should be included in your inspection.

1. Vehicle Exterior

- **Walk-Around Inspection:** Begin with a visual inspection of the vehicle's exterior. Look for any signs of damage, leaks, or irregularities.
- **Lights:** Check all lights, including headlights, taillights, turn signals, and reflectors, to ensure they are operational.
- **Tires:** Inspect tire pressure, tread depth, and sidewall integrity. Ensure that there are no visible cuts or bulges.
- **Wheels and Rims:** Look for any cracks or bends in the rims and check that lug nuts are secure.

2. Engine Compartment

- **Oil Level:** Check the oil level using the dipstick and look for any leaks.
- **Coolant Level:** Ensure the coolant reservoir is filled to the appropriate level and look for any leaks.
- **Belts and Hoses:** Inspect belts for cracks or wear and hoses for leaks or bulges.

3. Cab and Interior

- **Mirrors:** Adjust mirrors for optimal visibility and check for any cracks.
- **Seatbelts:** Ensure seatbelts are functional and not frayed.
- **Brakes:** Test the brake pedal for firmness and check for warning lights on the dashboard.
- **Emergency Equipment:** Verify the presence of a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and warning triangles or flares.

4. Chassis and Undercarriage

- Frame: Inspect the frame for any signs of damage or rust.
- Suspension: Look for any worn or damaged suspension components.
- Fuel System: Check for fuel leaks and ensure the fuel cap is secure.

How to Create a Printable CDL Pre Trip Inspection Cheat Sheet

Having a cheat sheet can streamline your pre-trip inspections, making them more efficient and effective. Here's how to create one:

Step 1: Gather Necessary Information

Research and compile a list of all components that need to be inspected. You can refer to the CDL manual or use the checklist provided above.

Step 2: Organize the Information

Format the information into clear sections, such as exterior, engine compartment, cab, and chassis. Use bullet points for easy readability.

Step 3: Make it Printable

Utilize a word processing or design program to create a visually appealing layout. Ensure the font is legible and that there's enough space for notes.

Step 4: Test the Cheat Sheet

Before printing, test the cheat sheet during a pre-trip inspection to see if it covers all necessary components and is easy to follow.

Step 5: Print and Laminate

Print multiple copies and consider laminating them for durability. This way, they can withstand the rigors of daily use and can be reused.

Utilizing the Cheat Sheet Effectively

Once you have your printable CDL pre-trip inspection cheat sheet, here are some tips on how to use it effectively:

1. Make It a Habit

Incorporate the cheat sheet into your daily routine. Always perform a pre-trip inspection before hitting the road, regardless of how short the trip may be.

2. Customize It

Feel free to add or remove items based on your specific vehicle or personal preferences. Some vehicles may have additional components that need checking.

3. Take Notes

Use the cheat sheet to jot down any observations during your inspection. This can help you track recurring issues and ensure they are addressed promptly.

4. Keep It Accessible

Store your cheat sheets in an easily accessible location in your vehicle, so you can refer to them quickly when needed.

Conclusion

A printable CDL pre-trip inspection cheat sheet is an essential resource for any commercial driver. By providing a structured approach to vehicle inspections, it helps ensure safety, compliance, and efficiency. Remember, the time invested in a thorough pre-trip inspection can save lives, prevent costly repairs, and uphold the integrity of the trucking profession. Make it a point to incorporate this practice into your routine, and you will undoubtedly reap the benefits of a safer and more reliable driving experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a CDL pre-trip inspection cheat sheet?

A CDL pre-trip inspection cheat sheet is a concise reference tool that summarizes the key steps and components of a pre-trip vehicle inspection for commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants.

Why is a pre-trip inspection important for CDL drivers?

A pre-trip inspection is crucial for CDL drivers as it ensures the safety of the vehicle, helps prevent accidents, and is a legal requirement to identify any potential issues before hitting the road.

Where can I find a printable CDL pre-trip inspection cheat sheet?

Printable CDL pre-trip inspection cheat sheets can be found on various trucking and driving school websites, as well as educational resources dedicated to CDL training.

What are the key components included in a CDL pre-

trip inspection cheat sheet?

Key components typically include checks for the engine, brakes, lights, tires, fluids, windshield wipers, and overall vehicle condition.

How can using a cheat sheet improve my pre-trip inspection efficiency?

Using a cheat sheet can streamline the inspection process by providing a clear checklist, ensuring that no critical steps are overlooked and saving time during the inspection.

Is there a difference between a pre-trip inspection checklist and a cheat sheet?

Yes, a pre-trip inspection checklist is a detailed list of items to inspect, while a cheat sheet is a simplified version that highlights the most important steps for quick reference.

Can I customize my CDL pre-trip inspection cheat sheet?

Absolutely! You can customize your cheat sheet to reflect the specific requirements of your vehicle or any personal preferences to enhance your inspection process.

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