

CDL Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist • Class A

All 32 items on the 2022 AAMVA vehicle inspection test, in walk-around order. For every item: point at it, name it, and say what you are checking. The examiner scores what you say, not what you look at.



- ☐ Tick it off as you practise **AUTO FAIL** Done wrong, it ends the test **Say:** the points the examiner listens for

9 In the cab

- ☐ **Air brake check** **AUTO FAIL**
Say: Builds air to governor cut-out and says the value · Leakage test done right · Low air warning before the limit · Spring brake valves pop in range
- ☐ **Parking & trailer brake check**
Say: Parking brake holds · Trailer brake holds
- ☐ **Service brake check**
Say: Pulls forward at about 5 mph · Applies the foot brake to stop · Doesn't pull to either side
- ☐ **Lighting indicators**
Say: Left and right turn indicators · Four-way flasher indicator · High beam indicator · ABS light comes on then goes off
- ☐ **Emergency equipment**
Say: Three red reflective triangles · Fire extinguisher charged and secured · Spare fuses or circuit breakers
- ☐ **Windshield & traffic monitoring devices**
Say: Windshield clean, not cracked · Nothing blocking the view · Mirrors clean and adjusted
- ☐ **Wipers & washers**
Say: Arms and blades secure, not damaged · Wipers operate smoothly · Washers work
- ☐ **Heater & defroster**
Say: Heater works · Defroster works
- ☐ **Horn(s)**
Say: Horns work



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1 Lights check

- ☐ **All external lights**
Say: Left and right turn signals · Four-way flashers · Low and high beams · Clearance / marker lights · Tail lights · Brake lights on and off



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4 Front of the truck & engine

- ☐ **Lenses**
Say: Names the front lenses · Proper color · Clean, not broken, not missing
- ☐ **Fluid levels**
Say: Engine oil · Coolant · Power steering fluid · Between add and full
- ☐ **Fluid & air leaks**
Say: No puddles on the ground · Nothing dripping · Hoses and air lines not leaking
- ☐ **Steering systems**
Say: Steering box mounted, not leaking · Steering hoses · Linkage not worn or cracked · Joints and fasteners



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6 Steering axle

- ☐ **Tires**
Say: Names the steer tires · Pressure with a tire gauge · Tread depth 4/32 · No cuts, bulges, cords showing · Valve stem and cap
- ☐ **Rims**
Say: Names the rim · Not cracked, bent or damaged · No welding repairs · Bolt holes not elongated
- ☐ **Lug nuts**
Say: Names the lug nuts · All present · Not loose, no rust trails or shiny threads · Studs not bent, broken or missing
- ☐ **Springs, mounts, U-bolts, air bags & shocks**
Say: Names the leaf springs · Not missing, shifted, cracked or broken · Spring mounts secure · U-bolts · Shock absorber
- ☐ **Brake lines or hoses & leaks**
Say: Names the brake hose / lines · Not cracked, worn or frayed · Couplings and fittings secure · No leaks
- ☐ **Brake contaminates**
Say: Names the drum / linings · No grease or oil



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5 Side of the tractor

- ☐ **Lenses & reflectors**
Say: Names side lenses and reflectors • Proper color • Clean, not broken, not missing
- ☐ **Traffic monitoring devices**
Say: Names the mirrors • Clean, not cracked • Brackets secure
- ☐ **Battery**
Say: Names the batteries • Batteries secure • Connections tight, no heavy corrosion • Cables secure, not cracked or worn • Box / cover secure
- ☐ **Fuel tank/DEF tank**
Say: Names the fuel tank • Securely mounted • Cap tight • No leaks from tank or lines
- ☐ **Frame(s) & tandem release**
Say: Names the frame • No cracks, broken welds or holes • Floor not cracked or holed • Tandem release locked



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4 Coupling system

- ☐ **Air & electric lines & connectors**
Say: Names air and electric lines • Connectors seated and locked • Not cut, chafed, spliced or taped • Not tangled, pinched or dragging • No air leaks
- ☐ **Fifth wheel skid plate**
Say: Names the fifth wheel skid plate • Securely mounted • No loose or missing parts • No cracks, breaks or heavy wear
- ☐ **Kingpin & apron & gap**
Say: Names the kingpin and apron • Kingpin not bent, damaged or worn • Apron not bent, cracked or broken • No gap
- ☐ **Locking & safety devices**
Say: Jaws closed on the kingpin • Release arm engaged • Safety latch in place



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2 Trailer

- ☐ **Landing gear & clearance**
Say: Names the landing gear • Fully raised, no missing parts • Crank handle secured • Support frame and pads not damaged • Clears the tractor in a turn
- ☐ **Reflective tape**
Say: Names the reflective tape • Present and secure



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1 Rear

- ☐ **Lenses & reflectors**
Say: Names rear lenses and reflectors • Proper color • Clean, not broken, not missing



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Air brake numbers to say (vehicles with air brakes)

- Air builds to governor cut-out at **120–140 psi**.
- Leakage with the brake pedal held for one minute: no more than **4 psi (combination)**.
- Low air warning comes on before **55 psi** (60 psi in New York and North Carolina; check your state manual).
- Spring brake valves pop out between **20–45 psi**.

Study sheet based on the 2022 AAMVA CDL vehicle inspection test. Your state manual is the final word, and some states test only part of the vehicle. States that allow a checklist at the test allow a blank one, not a sheet with the words on it. Full guide: readycdl.ai/guides/cdl-pre-trip-inspection-checklist

Practice log Date • full run time • items you missed

**Practice a full mock inspection with an AI examiner**

Ready CDL Prep app: Mr. Egg walks you around the truck in short video lessons with the exact words for every item. Say it back out loud, then run a timed mock inspection scored item by item.



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