

## **STRAIGHT TRUCK VEHICLE INSPECTION MEMORY AID**

---

**Note:** All drivers may use this aid during their pre-trip inspection test. Be prepared to point to or touch the listed items and explain “what” you would look for.

---

### **ENGINE COMPARTMENT**

- alternator mounted securely and belt \*
- water pump mounted securely and belt \*
- air compressor mounted securely and belt \*  
\* if gear driven, mention to the examiner.
- coolant, oil and power steering levels.
- leaks and hoses.

### **VEHICLE FRONT**

- steering box and steering linkage.
- springs and spring mounts.
- shock absorber.
- brake hose or line.
- brake drum or rotor.
- tire and rim.
- lug nuts and hub oil seal.

#### **If air brake equipped**

- brake hose.
- slack adjuster.
- brake chamber.

### **VEHICLE SIDE**

- door and mirror.
- fuel tank mounted securely, leaks and cap.
- frame and drive shaft.
- exhaust.
- battery and/or baggage door for buses.
- springs or air bag.
- spring mounts or air bag mounts.
- shock absorber.
- brake hose or line.
- brake drum or rotor.
- tires and rim.
- spacer.
- lug nuts and hub oil seal.

#### **If air brake equipped**

- brake hose.
- slack adjuster.
- brake chamber.

\***Belt** - Check for proper tension, cracks or frays.

### **VEHICLE REAR**

- doors and hinges.
- splash guards and reflectors.

### **VEHICLE LIGHTS**

- headlights (high and low beam).
- front signals and 4-way flashers.
- front clearance.
- side clearance and reflectors.
- rear tail.
- rear signals and 4-way flashers.
- rear brake lights.
- rear clearance.

### **INSIDE VEHICLE**

- clutch (depressed) and gearshift (neutral).
- all gauges (oil, voltmeter, air/vacuum, etc.).
- speedometer.
- light indicators.
- steering wheel play.
- horn(s).
- mirrors adjusted and windshield condition.
- wipers.
- heater and defroster.
- safety/emergency equipment.
- parking brake.
- brake system check (see next page for correct procedure).
- service brake check (see next page for correct procedure).

---

**Note:** All drivers are required to complete a brake system check correctly in order to pass their pre-trip inspection. The correct process is listed below according to the vehicles braking system.

---

### **BRAKE SYSTEM CHECK FOR HYDRAULIC BRAKES**

If the vehicle has hydraulic brakes, with the engine running, apply firm pressure to the service (foot) brake pedal and hold for five seconds. The brake pedal should not move.

### **BRAKE SYSTEM CHECK FOR AIR BRAKES**

If the vehicle has air brakes, you will need to check for leaks (L), warning alarm/signal (A) and for the button (B). This test is commonly referred to as the LAB inspection.

#### **(L) - LEAKS**

With a fully charged air system (typically 120 psi), turn off the engine, chock the wheels, release (push in) the parking brake button. Apply firm pressure to the service (foot) brake pedal. Watch the air supply gauge and listen for air leaks. After the initial pressure drop, the loss rate for single vehicles should be no more than 3 psi in one minute. If the air loss rate exceeds that figure, your air brake system will need to be repaired prior to continuing with the skills test.

#### **(A) - ALARM/SIGNAL**

Turn the key to the on position. Rapidly apply and release (fanning) the service (foot) brake pedal to reduce air tank pressure. The low air pressure warning signal (light, buzzer, etc.) must come on before the pressure drops to less than 60 psi in the air tank.

#### **(B) - BUTTON**

Continue to rapidly apply and release (fanning) the service (foot) brake pedal to further reduce air tank pressure. The parking brake button should pop out when the air pressure falls to the manufacturer's specification (usually between 20 to 40 psi). This causes the spring brakes to come on.

### **TEST SERVICE (FOOT) BRAKES PRIOR TO OPERATING**

If your vehicle has **air brakes**, build up your air pressure to normal operating range (typically 120 psi), release (push in) the parking brake button. Move forward slowly (about 5 mph) and apply the service (foot) brake pedal firmly. Note any vehicle "Pulling" to one side, unusual feel or delayed stopping action.

If your vehicle has **hydraulic brakes**, move forward slowly (about 5 mph) and apply the service (foot) brake pedal firmly. Note any vehicle "Pulling" to one side, unusual feel or delayed stopping action.

---

**Note:** If your vehicle is air brake equipped, you must locate and identify all air brake system components, test your service brakes and correctly perform the LAB in order to pass the air brake portion of the pre-trip inspection.

---