

Commercial Vehicle Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist

You are only required to inspect the items on the **CDL Vehicle Inspection checklist**. You may use the checklist provided in this section for your test and check off items as you have completed them, but NO additional markings or writing may be placed on this list prior to the test. You **MUST** name, point to and/or touch and fully explain to the examiner **WHAT** you are inspecting each safety critical item for. If you do not, you will not get credit for the item(s).

(Remember to latch the hood.)

Class A Checklist Tractor Semi-Trailer or Truck & Trailer or Bus & Trailer

In-Vehicle/Engine Start

PG. 3

- ☐ *air or *hydraulic brake check
- ☐ parking & trailer brake check
- ☐ service brake check
- ☐ lighting indicators
- ☐ emergency equipment
- ☐ windshield & traffic monitoring devices
- ☐ wipers & washers
- ☐ heater & defroster
- ☐ horn(s)

Lights Operations Check

PG. 4

- ☐ all external lights

Front of Vehicle/Engine Area

PG. 4

- ☐ lenses
- ☐ fluid levels
- ☐ fluid & air leaks
- ☐ steering systems

Steering Axle

PG. 4 & 5

- ☐ tires
- ☐ rims
- ☐ lug nuts
- ☐ springs/mounts & air bags & shocks
- ☐ brake lines or hoses & leaks
- ☐ brake contaminates

Side of Vehicle

PG. 5

- ☐ lenses & reflectors
- ☐ traffic monitoring devices
- ☐ battery
- ☐ fuel tank(s)/DEF tank
- ☐ frame(s)

Combination Vehicles Only

PG. 6

- ☐ air & electric lines & connectors
- ☐ fifth wheel skid plate or pintle hook or tow hitch
- ☐ kingpin & apron & gap or drawbar ring & tongue or coupler & tongue
- ☐ locking & safety devices

Trailer Only

PG. 6

- ☐ landing gear & clearance
- ☐ reflective tape

Rear of Trailer

PG. 6

- ☐ lenses & reflectors

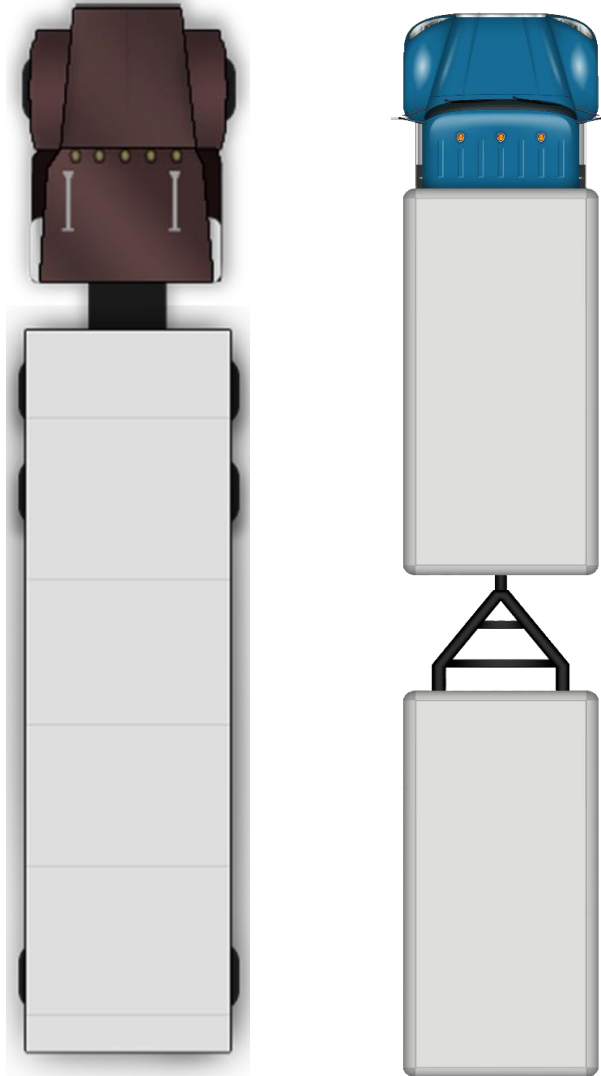
* Automatic failure if not performed correctly

Passenger and School Bus Only

- ☐ passenger entry & lift
- ☐ emergency exits
- ☐ passenger seating
- ☐ passenger monitoring devices

School Bus Only

- ☐ student lights (front & back)
- ☐ stop arm(s) & safety arm
- ☐ first aid & body fluid kits



READ MN CDL MANUAL SECTION 10M PAGES 189-200

Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services - 445 Minnesota St., Saint Paul, MN 55101

Phone: (651) 201-7626 TTY: (651) 282-6555 Fax: (651) 296-5316

Rev. 8.0 06.12.2026

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(Remember to latch the hood.)

Class B or Class C Checklist Straight Truck or Other Straight Vehicle

In-Vehicle/Engine Start

- ☐ *air or *hydraulic brake check
- ☐ parking & trailer brake check
- ☐ service brake check
- ☐ lighting indicators
- ☐ emergency equipment
- ☐ windshield & traffic monitoring devices
- ☐ wipers & washers
- ☐ heater & defroster
- ☐ horn(s)

Lights Operations Check

- ☐ all external lights

Front of Vehicle/Engine Area

- ☐ lenses
- ☐ fluid levels
- ☐ fluid & air leaks
- ☐ steering systems

Steering Axle

- ☐ tires
- ☐ rims
- ☐ lug nuts
- ☐ springs/mounts & air bags & shocks
- ☐ brake lines or hoses & leaks
- ☐ brake contaminates

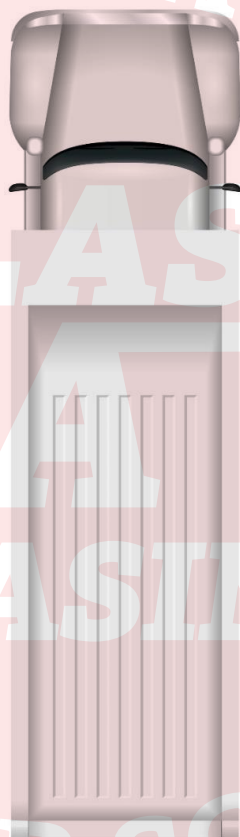
Side of Vehicle

- ☐ lenses & reflectors
- ☐ traffic monitoring devices
- ☐ battery
- ☐ fuel tank(s)/DEF tank
- ☐ frame(s)

Rear of Vehicle

- ☐ lenses & reflectors

* Automatic failure if not performed correctly



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INSIDE VEHICLE/Engine Start:

Safe Start: SHOW: Before starting the truck, buckle-up. Pull on the parking + trailer brake valves and/or point to them. **EXPLAIN:** parking & trailer brakes are engaged. Turn the ignition key to the "on position," wait momentarily for the ABS, DEF and other warning lights to appear. **EXPLAIN:** All warning lights appear and are functioning. Next, **SHOW:** the transmission is in neutral and then start the truck.

ii. THINK G A L E: If air gauges read above 100 psi pump the brake to release air to 90-100 psi and "reset the governor."

AIR BRAKE CHECK:

1. Governor Cutoff Check & Air Gauge

G. Leave both the parking + trailer brakes pulled out, and inspect that the air gauge is working and builds the air pressure. Mention governor cutoff of approximately 120-140 psi, and **CALL OUT** the cutoff pressure of your vehicle. **EXPLAIN:** "Air gauges show air pressure and identify the gauge."

2. Air Loss check

A. Apply pressure on the service brake pedal. Then release the parking and trailer brake. Let the needles stabilize at a minimum of 90 psi. Shut the truck off and turn the key to the ON position.

i. Note: Parking and trailer brake valves should be pushed in or "released."

EXPLAIN: "I should not lose more than 4 psi in one minute." (Note: 3 psi for Class B).

ii. Wait the full minute while holding your foot on the service brake

EXPLAIN: "I did not lose more than 4 psi (Class A) or 3 psi (Class B)."

3. Low Air Alarm check:

L. **EXPLAIN:** "The low air alarm should come on before 55 psi. I should be able to hear it and see it." Start to pump the service brake until the alarms come on. **CALL OUT** the psi of your vehicle and confirm again that you "see it and hear it."

4. Emergency Brake check:

E. **EXPLAIN:** "Both brake valves should pop out and apply automatically between 45-20 psi." Start to pump the brakes until both valves apply, "pop out" and apply automatically.

CALL OUT the specific psi of your vehicle.

Start the engine, put the truck into gear or drive and **immediately** try to pull against the brakes. **Mention** "Emergency brakes hold." Put the truck in neutral and build air pressure to 100 psi which is the minimum psi recommended for dual air brake systems. **Note:** *we recommend automatic transmissions build air to 120-130psi.

Parking & Trailer Brake Check

Step 1. Parking Brake:

Release (push in) the trailer brake (**red valve**) leaving the parking brake (**yellow valve**) is applied or pulled out. Put the truck in drive/gear. Gently pull against the parking brake, truck should not move; **EXPLAIN:** "Parking brake holds."

Step 2. Trailer Brake & Trailer Connection

Release (push in) parking brake (**yellow valve**) and pull out the trailer brake (**red valve**). Gently apply the gas pedal or release the clutch to gently pull against the trailer. Then, **EXPLAIN:** "Trailer Brake holds the truck and the trailer. AND the trailer is securely coupled."

Service brake:

SHOW: Release (push in) the parking and trailer brake valves, drive forward (roughly 5 MPH), and stop with the service brake/brake pedal. **EXPLAIN:** "The service brake stops the truck; also the brakes apply evenly without pulling to either side."

Lighting indicators:

EXPLAIN: "ABS & DEF indicator lights are not (on), and there is no check engine warning light visible. **SHOW:** Turn on lights and check right / left turn signal indicators, and four-way flashers (hazards). Check the high beam indicator.

EXPLAIN: "dash lights work, I can read the gauges clearly."

Emergency Equip:

SHOW: Spare fuses **EXPLAIN:** "none are missing," **SHOW & EXPLAIN:** "We have 3 red reflective DOT safety triangles that are not cracked or missing, ready to use in the box; **SHOW & EXPLAIN:** The fire extinguisher is fully charged, safety pin is in place and not missing. The Fire extinguisher is securely mounted."

Windshield & Traffic Monitoring Devices (mirrors): **EXPLAIN:** "Windshield is clean, clear, and not cracked. No illegal stickers and nothing blocking my view. The mirrors are clean, clear, and adjusted properly to me."

Wipers & washers: **SHOW:** Test the washer fluid first. **EXPLAIN:** "the washer fluid applies evenly, and the wiper blades work properly with no signs of streaks."

Heater & defroster: **SHOW:** Turn fan to high, turn selector to defroster/floor, and turn temperature to heat. **SHOW:** with your hand that the top and bottom fans both work. **EXPLAIN:** "Both fans and heat work properly."

Horn: **SHOW:** Toot the horn(s). **EXPLAIN:** "city horn works and air/freeway horn works" (if equipped). Note: One operating horn is required for testing.

Lights Operation Check: **TIP:** leave lights on and truck idling. **EXPLAIN:** "Now I will check all my lights." **SHOW:** Now exit the vehicle facing the truck, maintaining three points of contact, (close the door).

All External Lights:

EXPLAIN/SHOW: "Lights are on and working by pointing to each light."

1. **Low Beams and High Beams:** check front. **SHOW:** difference between (low vs high beams).
2. **Running Lights** (Clearance, marker & tail): check all sides of truck and trailer + top of cab.
3. **Right Turn Signal:** check front & back.
4. **Left Turn Signal:** check front & back.
5. **Hazard/Four Way Flashers:** check front & back.

6. ***Brake Lights:** **Ask** the examiner to help you check the brake lights.

Front of Vehicle/Engine Area

Lenses: **EXPLAIN:** "The lenses are the proper color (amber or clear), clean, not cracked or missing and securely mounted."

Fluid Levels

1. **Oil Level:** **EXPLAIN:** "I would remove the yellow dipstick, while the engine is off. Level should be above the add mark, if below, point to where it should be added."
2. **Coolant Level:** **EXPLAIN:** "Coolant should be above the add line mark. If below the add line mark, point to where it should be added. Mention: I would check and add coolant while engine is off."
3. **Power Steering Fluid:** **EXPLAIN:** "I would check while the engine is running. Should be above the minimum/add mark. If below, point to where it should be added."
4. **Automatic Transmission Fluid:** Automatic transmissions only, **EXPLAIN:** "I would check the yellow dipstick (passenger side) - should be above add mark (while engine is running). If low, add fluid to the dip-tube where it was checked."

Fluid & Air Leaks: **EXPLAIN:** "Check under the vehicle for any puddles on the ground, also noticing any air leaking, and smells of burning fluid or rubber. Check all hoses to be properly clamped, and free of any abrasions, bulges, cracks or leaks. Check that all caps are not missing and securely mounted."

Steering Axle:

Steering Systems:

Steering Box: **EXPLAIN:** "Properly mounted and secure, no missing nuts/bolts, not cracked or leaking. Hoses are clamped securely, not leaking and showing no abrasions, bulges or cracks."

Steering Linkage (3 parts):

1. **EXPLAIN:** "Check for linkage cracked, bent or dented."
2. **EXPLAIN:** "All joints are connected securely, properly greased, and showing no loose or excessive play."
3. **EXPLAIN:** "Check for any loose or missing nuts/bolts, and no missing cotter pins in the castle nuts."

Tires: (3 steps)

EXPLAIN:

1. **TREAD:** "The tire is evenly worn. I would verify tread depth with a tread depth gauge; tread depth is at least 4/32 of an inch, and the tire is a virgin tread, not recapped."
2. **CONDITION:** "The tire is properly mounted, free of any abrasions, bulges, cracks or leaking air."
3. **INFLATION:** "The tire is properly inflated to the tire specification, and checked through the valve stem with an air pressure gauge. The cap is not missing and the tire and dust cap are securely mounted."

Rims: **EXPLAIN:** "No damaged, cracked or bent rims. No welding or repairs. The bolt holes behind the lug nuts are not elongated, no gaps between rim and lug nuts and no rust trails. No missing or cracked lugs the rim is securely mounted."

Lug Nuts & Studs: EXPLAIN: "The lug nuts and studs are all present, not cracked or bent. No gap or space between the lug nuts and the rim, and the studs have no shiny threads all are securely mounted."

Springs/Mounts/Airbag & Shocks:

Springs: EXPLAIN: "The metal is not cracked, bent, rusted through, sagging or loose. Springs are not shifting or scissoring, and securely mounted."

Mounts: EXPLAIN: "Inspect the Spring mounts + U-Bolts metal not damaged, twisted or sagging with no gaps, spaces or missing nuts & bolts. Bushings are not torn or missing and are securely mounted."

Shocks: EXPLAIN: "Shocks are not cracked, bent, rusted through, straight or loose and not leaking. Bushings are not torn or missing with no missing nuts and bolts, securely mounted." **EXPLAIN:** I would step back to ensure truck is level with the ground.

Brake hoses/Lines/Leaks: EXPLAIN: "The air hose is not leaking, not cracked, bulging or worm through. All couplings and fittings are secure, none are loose or missing. The ABS line shows no corroded, exposed or loose wires. Plugged in and fittings are securely mounted." Brake hose and ABS line are securely mounted.

Brake contaminates: EXPLAIN: "No grease or oil on the brake drum lining (or pad) that can affect braking capabilities.

Automatic Transmission ONLY - EXPLAIN: "must look through inspection holes."

(Remember to latch the hood.)

SIDE OF VEHICLE/TRAILER:

Lenses & Reflectors EXPLAIN: "Inspect that light lenses or covers are the proper color, clean, not cracked or missing, securely mounted."

Traffic Monitoring Devices: (Mirrors) EXPLAIN: "The mirrors are clean and not cracked. The mirror brackets are not bent (from damage). They are securely mounted. No missing parts."

Battery: EXPLAIN: "Batteries are secure. All connections are tight. No (excessive) corrosion. The electric cables and lines are secure and not cracked. or worn. The battery box and cover are secure.

The **1. batteries, 2. battery box, and 3. battery box cover** are securely mounted within the box and on the truck."

Fuel tank(s)/DEF tanks: EXPLAIN: "Fuel tank is secured with at least two metal straps and show no signs of the straps being twisted, loose or rusted through. The rubber bushings are not missing, and metal is not rubbing on metal. The fuel cap seal is in place, not worn through, missing or leaking. Search for leaks at the top and below the fuel tank, as well as at the cap. Inspect the tank is securely mounted."

Frame(s): POINT & EXPLAIN: "No cracks, illegal or missing welds, not rusted through or missing nuts and bolts to the frame and cross members and securely mounted. The frame of trailer has no cracks, breaks or holes in the cargo area floor or loose or missing cross-support members on the trailer. No missing D-rings and the cargo ramps are locked in the upright drive position, ready for the cargo and securely mounted."

Combination Vehicles (ONLY)

(TRACTOR) Air and Electric Connectors/Lines: EXPLAIN: "Electrical cord is plugged in and secured w/spring loaded safety latch. Air and electrical connections are properly seated, fully sealed, and locked in place. Hoses and lines are free of cuts, cracks, frays, or excessive wear. No air leaks present. Electrical & Air Lines are properly routed—not pinched, not rubbing, and not dragging on any vehicle components and are securely mounted."

(SEMI TRAILER) Air and Electric Connectors/Lines: EXPLAIN: "Electric cord is firmly plugged in and secured. The wires are not cut, corroded, exposed or loose and not dragging below the trailer frame. Securely mounted."

Fifth Wheel Skid Plate

1. Fifth Wheel: EXPLAIN: "The fifth wheel is securely mounted to the vehicle by the platform. No cracks, breaks or excessive wear. The poly plate offers proper lubrication."

2. Platform: EXPLAIN: "Platform is not twisted or sagging, no gap of space between the platform and truck frame, not cracked, bent, or rusted through. Inspect nuts and bolts are not loose, missing and securely mounted to the frame of the truck."

King Pin & Apron & Gap

1. Kingpin: EXPLAIN: "Locked in locking jaws, not cracked or bent. Head is visible under the locking jaws."

2. Apron: EXPLAIN: "Not cracked or bent, and secured to the trailer frame. No missing or broken welds."

3. Gap: EXPLAIN: "The trailer is lying flat on the fifth wheel skid plate and there is no space between the apron and fifth wheel, except for the poly plate. Explain if there was a gap, it would indicate the kingpin is not properly coupled."

Combination Vehicle Only: (Continued)

LOCKING & SAFETY DEVICES:

1. **Locking Jaws:** **EXPLAIN:** "Locking jaw is around the "shank" and not the "head" of the kingpin, latched securely and visible. The locking jaw is properly greased, not bent or cracked, and securely mounted."
2. **Release Arm:** **EXPLAIN:** "The release arm is in the engaged, drive position and is not bent, not cracked and that it has the proper spring tension."

TRAILER ONLY:

Landing Gear & Clearance: **EXPLAIN:** "The landing is fully raised to clear the road and there is enough distance between the landing gear and the rear of the truck (fifth wheel) for turns. No missing or cracked welds, and brackets are not bent or rusted through. No loose or missing bolts, landing foot and handle is in the secured position. The landing gear is securely mounted and strong enough to support its cargo."

Reflective Tape: **EXPLAIN:** "Reflective tape is DOT approved, and reflective tape on the sides and rear of the trailer are present and securely mounted to the vehicle."

Rear of Trailer:

Lenses & Reflectors: **EXPLAIN:** "Lense covers on the rear of the trailer are the proper color (rear=red), they are clean, clear, not cracked or missing and securely mounted. Reflective tape on the trailer is DOT approved, clean, clear, visiable, not missing and securely mounted."

HELPFUL ACRONYMS:

CBD = (Metal) No Cracks, Bends, Dented

ABC = (Hoses & Tires) No Abrasions, Bulges, Cracks/Cuts

CDL = (Fuel & Def Tank, Fuel lines, Containers, Reseviors, etc.) No Cracks/Cuts, Dents, Leaks/Loose

CEL = (Wires & Electrical Connectors) No Corroded, Exposed or Loose wires

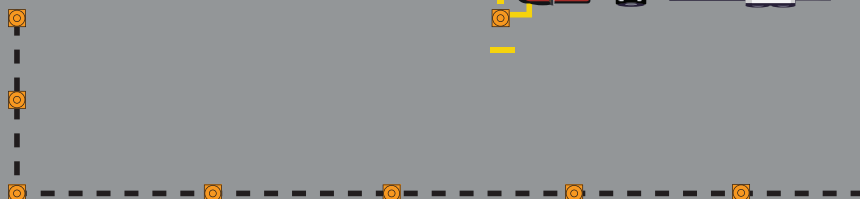
CCC = (Glass, Mirrors, Lenses) Clean, Clear, not Cracked

Note: Every thing is Securely mounted.

BASIC CONTROL SKILLS

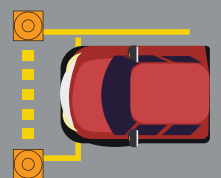
Remember set the parking brakes, shift truck into neutral and sound the horn to notify the examiner the exercise is complete.

1. FORWARD STOP

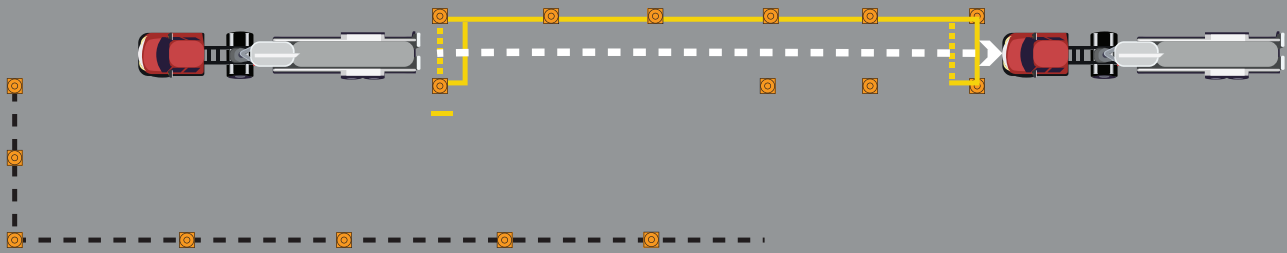


You will demonstrate your ability to judge the front of your vehicle during a controlled stop. Drive forward through the alley and stop with the front most part of the vehicle (other than unique vehicle parts higher than the door mirrors, such as a bucket truck) within the box at the end of the alley without going past it. You may stop only once.

No get out and looks, park the truck and sound the horn when you've compeld the excise.



2. STRAIGHT-LINE BACKING



You will demonstrate your ability to back a vehicle in a straight line. From your stopped position from the previous exercise, the examiner will ask you to pull forward and stop when they raise their hand.

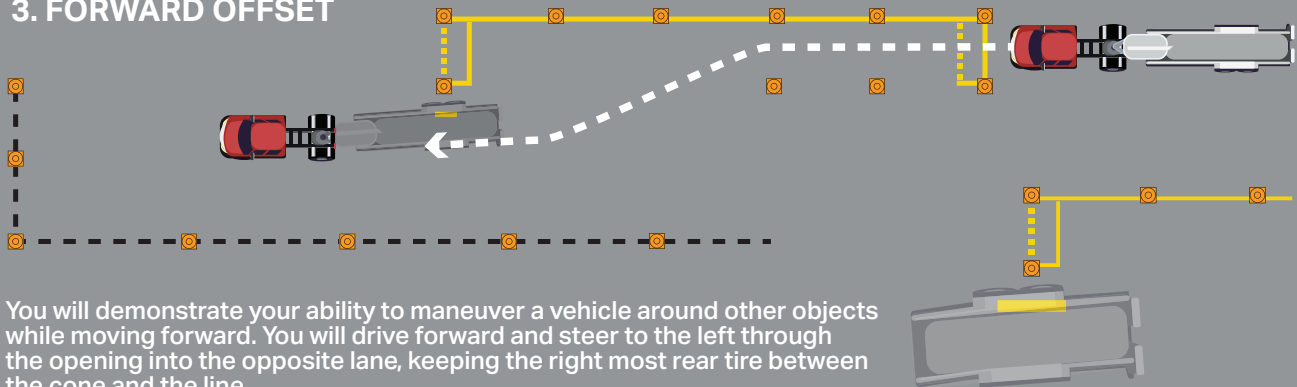
Then back straight through the alley until the front of your vehicle has cleared the last set of cones at the far end of the alley.

1 free pull-up and 1 get out and look are allowed

What is a LOOK

If you open the door or move from a seated position that counts as a LOOK. Using the rear window or sticking your head out of the drivers window will also be counted as a LOOK.

3. FORWARD OFFSET

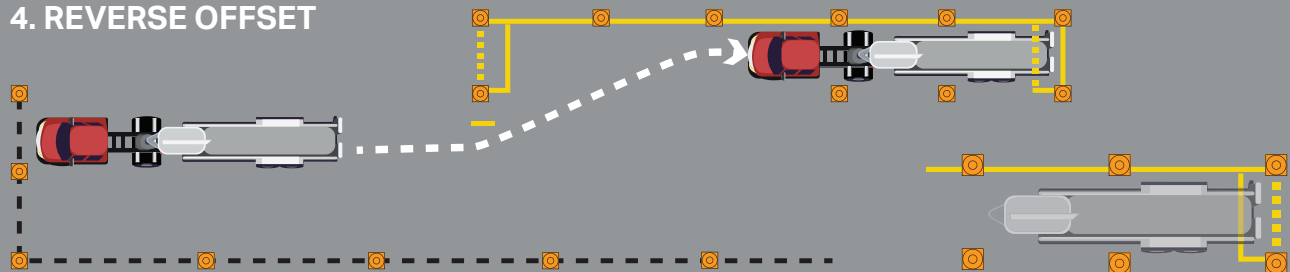


You will demonstrate your ability to maneuver a vehicle around other objects while moving forward. You will drive forward and steer to the left through the opening into the opposite lane, keeping the right most rear tire between the cone and the line.

Setting up

FORWARD OFFSET: Stop your vehicle when you are parallel to the outer boundary, prior to or at the cones at the far end of the exercise. Then, set your parking brakes, shift to neutral and sound your horn. **Note:** this also sets you up properly for Exercise 4. the REVERSE OFFSET.

4. REVERSE OFFSET



You will demonstrate your ability to offset back and park a vehicle at the end of an alley. Starting parallel with the outer boundary, offset back into the alley, bringing the rear most part of your vehicle within three (3) feet of the rear of the alley. Stop with the rear most part of the vehicle in the three (3) foot box at the end of the alley. Your examiner will point out the rear most part of your vehicle when giving instructions for this exercise. Your vehicle must be straight within the alley when completed. Your vehicle must be completely within the defined exercise boundaries when completed. You may not go beyond the outer boundary line.

2 Free pull-ups and 2 get out and looks are allowed during this exercise

Road Test Reminders:

Turns

- Stay straight. Turn late.
- Guard your cushion of space.
- Watch your trailer and trailer tires.
- Finish in the same lane you started from.
- Don't hit curbs. Don't cut corners. Square them off (class B) or Button Hooks (class A).

Stops

- Complete stop. No rolling.
- Stop behind stop bars, crosswalks, and stop signs.
- Look left, right, and left again before moving.

Observation

- LOOK. LOOK. LOOK AGAIN.
- Move your head, not just your eyes.
- Check near, far, and side-to-side every 6–8 seconds.
- Read the road signs (in your mind), acknowledge the yellow hazard signs by either looking at them and/or slowing down for them.
- Slow down in School Zones to 5 MPH below the posted speed limit.
- Slow down in Work Zones. Increase your following distance, watch for changing traffic patterns, obey posted signs, and be prepared to stop at any time.
- Approach Railroad Crossings at a speed that allows you to **stop safely if required**. If a stop is necessary due to a train or crossing conditions, stop 15–50 feet from the nearest rail, look and listen, then proceed only when it is safe to do so. **Don't stop or Change Gears** while on the rail road tracks.

Parking

- Signal to the curb.
- Park parallel and within 1 foot of the curb. Don't hit the curb
- Uphill: wheels left.
- Downhill: wheels right.
- Pull the parking brakes, put the truck into neutral and engage your hazard lights.
- Always signal first before moving away from a curb.

Highway Driving

- Signal early, often, and continuous.
- Guard your cushion of space.
- Leave yourself an out.
- Don't crowd traffic.
- Obey speed limits. **(we recommend taking 5mph off of the posted speed limit white signs and matching the speed limit of the yellow signs whenever conditions and weather allow that speed.)**

Remember: You're not a squirrel (a fuzzy-tailed creature that makes bad decisions)—you're a truck driver. Slow down, make clean decisions, and drive the truck before the truck drives you. Good drivers can only react. Great drivers anticipate. Safe travels and go earn that CDL today.

PRE-TRIP REMINDERS & HELPFUL TIPS

1. You're not actually checking fluid levels, landing gear pins, glad-hands, gas cap & seals, removing oil and automatic transmission fluid dip sticks, coupling and uncoupling of trailer, crawling under the trailer, pulling release arm so as to unlock the locking jaw of the trailer. But rather mention this is what **"I WOULD DO."**
2. **Lights Operations Check** *(As Suggested by the Minnesota CDL Manual)*
Lights help you see, be seen, and communicate with other drivers. You can ask the examiner to "assist you."

Check the operation of:

- Low beams and high beams
- Left and right turn signals
- 4-way flashers
- Clearance/marker lights
- Brake lights

Inspect all lights from outside the vehicle. On a combination vehicle, inspect the rear of the trailer. You may ask the examiner to assist. Direct them to the front, sides, and rear while you activate each light from inside the cab. Roll the window down, speak clearly, and call out each light you want checked.

Remember: If you don't mention a it you don't get credit for it.

3. **Make sure you point at the part** and give a detailed description/explanation about every item listed! **Mention 3-4 things** about it, Check it off and move on. BE detailed, try to give a **3 - 4 point description** about nearly every item listed.

Examples"

- "not cracked, bent, dented or loose"
- "no missing bolts; mounted securely"
- "not bent, twisted, or warped; not rusted through"
- "not leaking" etc.

Follow the list, and **Be mindful** of what you are saying.

3. **Study your Pre-Trip.** You need to practice, rehearse and study the Pre-Trip on your own to establish knowledge, confidence and a passable results. Your goal is to convince the examiner that I know how to pre-trip my truck and (class A) your trailer.
4. **Arrive** at the Driver's Exam Station at least **30 minutes**, before your scheduled road test. Please dress and be prepared for the inclement weather, cold, rain, snow and ice.

Check in at the Outside Dispatch Window. **DO NOT check in at the front door.**

Instead walk around the DMV building to the dispatch window. **Wait in or by your CDL Test Truck.**

IF YOU DO NOT SEE YOUR TRUCK, CALL 612-723-4398 ASAP!

CLASS A LEASING

MINNESOTA TRUCK & TRAILER SCHOOL

612-723-4398

ELDT & CDL TRAINING
TRUCK RENTALS

Class A Leasing
Office

8899 Hastings St. NE
Blaine, MN 55

Arden Hills
Exam Station

5400 Old Highway 8
Arden Hills, MN 55112

Plymouth
Exam Station

2455 Fernbrook Lane N
Plymouth, MN 55442

Eagan
Exam Station

2070 Cliff Rd,
Eagan, MN 55122

Buffalo
Exam Station

1006 Commercial Dr, Buffalo,
MN 55313

Contacts: Main Line (612)723-4398

Eric / Owner (612)618-1812 | Sabrina (763)344-3113 | Alex (651) 802-4452

CDL Appointments for

Arden Hills, Plymouth, Eagan & Buffalo DMV: 651-297-5029

CLASS A LEASING

MINNESOTA TRUCK & TRAILER SCHOOL



THE 5 KEYS OF THE SMITH SYSTEM

Time-Tested. Road Proven. Lives Saved.

The 5 Keys help professional CDL drivers manage space, visibility, and reaction time.



International Durastar 4300
Crew Cab with 34' Towmaster
Gooseneck Flatbed Trailer

1



AIM HIGH IN STEERING

Look 15 seconds ahead—not just at the bumper in front of you.

- Identify hazards early
- Anticipate changes in traffic, weather, and road conditions
- Avoid sudden reactions and hard braking



2



GET THE BIG PICTURE

Know what's happening around your truck at all times.

- Check front, sides, and rear
- Watch for blind spots and merging traffic
- Look for escape routes and changing conditions



3



KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING

Staring is dangerous. Keep scanning.

- Check mirrors every 2 seconds
- Monitor gauges, road, and intersections
- Stay alert and fight fatigue behind the wheel



4



LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT

Space equals time. Time equals options.

- Maintain safe following distance
- Avoid getting boxed in
- Leave room beside your trailer
- Always have an escape route



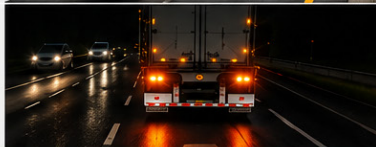
5



MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU

Never assume another driver sees you.

- Use turn signals early and consistently
- Use headlights, brake lights, and horn appropriately
- Drive predictably and communicate your intentions



WHY IT MATTERS

The Smith System helps CDL drivers:



REDUCE PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTS



LOWER STRESS BEHIND THE WHEEL



IMPROVE REACTION TIME



BUILD SAFER DRIVING HABITS



PROTECT EQUIPMENT,
CARGO, AND LIVES

Good drivers react.

Great drivers anticipate.

LOOK FAR AHEAD • STAY ALERT • LEAVE SPACE • MAKE YOURSELF SEEN

DRIVE SMART. DRIVE SAFE. SAVE LIVES.

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