

VEHICLE INSPECTION PROCEDURE

Walk-Around Sequence For Single Trailers

Step 1: Left Side of Cab

Note general condition

Left front wheel

- Wheels – cracks, mismatched lock rings, bent rims, or broken/missing studs, clamps, lugs
- Tires – properly inflated; valve stem not touching wheel, rim, or brake drum; valve caps in place; no bulges or deep cuts; adequate tread depth; no uneven wear
- Hub – no leakage

Left front suspension

- Condition of springs, spring hangers, shackles, U-bolts (no signs of broken, cracked, missing, or shifted parts)
- Shocks – secure, no leaks

Left front brakes

- Drums – no breaks or cracks
- Hoses – not chafed or worn
- Brake chambers – properly mounted
- Slack adjusters/pushrods – No missing parts; not frozen

Step 2: Front of Cab

Condition of front axle

Condition of steering

- No loose, worn, damaged, broken, or missing parts; no leakage of power steering fluid

Condition of windshield

- Clean windshield if dirty; check for damage
- Wipers – proper spring tension on arm, blade properly secured, blade rubber in good condition

Lights and reflectors

- Clean if dirty
- Headlights, clearance/identification lights, turn signals functioning and displaying proper color

Step 3: Right side of Cab

Check all items as done on left side of cab area (Step 1)

Step 4, 14: Behind Cab

Fuel Tank(s)*

- Securely mounted; No leaks or major damage
- Crossover line protected; Other fuel lines secure
- Sufficient fuel supply
- Securely capped
- No fuel leaks in lines or fittings

Battery(ies)*

- Battery holder securely attached
- Battery properly secured in holder and covered
- Proper fluid level (if not maintenance-free type)
- Cells capped (if not maintenance-free type)
- No excessive corrosion at terminals

Other visible components

- Engine/transmission – no leaks
- Driveshaft – no obvious defects
- Exhaust – secured, no leaks; no contact with air lines, fuel lines, wiring, or other combustible material*
- Frame/cross-members – not bent, cracked, or broken
- Air lines/fuel lines/wiring – properly routed, secured against damage, undamaged

Step 5: Trailer Frontal Area

Air and electrical connections

- Glad hands properly mounted, free of damage, not leaking
- Electrical line receptacle properly mounted, free of damage; plug adequately seated and safety catch engaged to prevent accidental disconnect
- Air and electrical lines properly secured against tangling, snagging, and chafing, with sufficient slack for turns

Lights and reflectors

- Front trailer clearance and sidemarker lights – should be clean, operating, and proper color
- Reflectors, clean and proper color

Step 6: Right Rear Tractor Drive Wheels

Dual wheels

- Condition of wheels and rims – no missing, bent, or broken spacers, studs, clamps, or lugs
- Condition of tires – properly inflated; valve stems not touching wheels, rims or brake drum; valve caps in place; no serious cuts, bulges, tread wear, or any signs of misalignment and no debris stuck between them
- Tires same type, e.g., not mixed radial and bias types
- Tires evenly matched (circumference)
- Wheel bearing and hub – no obvious leaking

Tandem axles

- Repeat wheel/tire inspection as above

Suspension

- Condition of spring(s), spring hangers, shackles, and U-bolts
- Axle alignment

Brakes

- Condition of brake drum(s)
- Condition of hoses – look for any chafing
- Check slack adjusters
- Check air chamber mounting
- Check spring brakes
- Drain "wet" tank, close petcock

Step 7: Rear of Tractor Area

Frame and cross-members not bent, cracked, or otherwise damaged or missing

Lights and reflectors

- Tail lights and turn signal lights operating, clean, and proper color

Air and electrical lines properly secured to frame, not damaged or chafing

Approaching vehicle and in-cab:

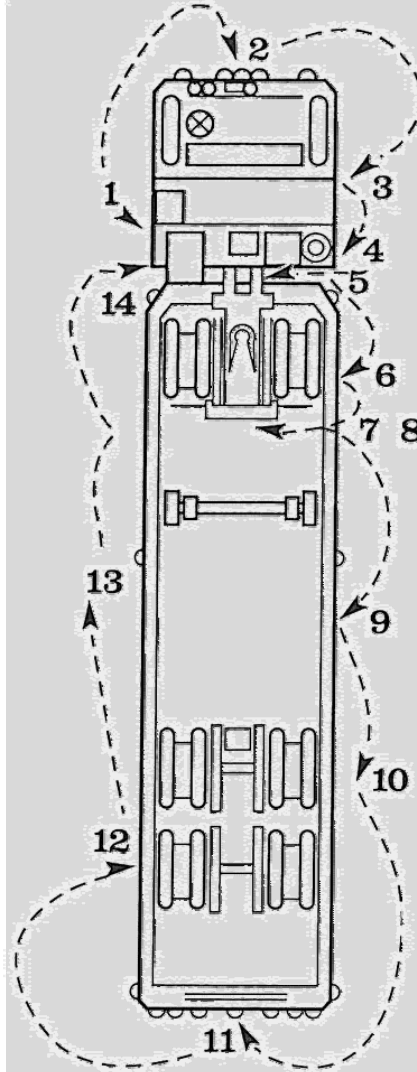
- Check for leaks of oil, fuel, water; other signs of defects
- In cab: Start engine. Check gauges and/or pilot light function including ABS warning light (if ABS-equipped)
- Check safety belt, windshield wipers, horn(s)
- Check reflective triangles, fire extinguisher, fuses (if equipped)
- Check mirror adjustment and condition
- Check steering wheel for excessive free play
- Turn on lights and four way flashers before exiting cab

Air-brake check (in cab unless otherwise noted):

- Build air pressure to maximum
- Charge trailer air system
- Release parking brake(s)
- Apply service (foot) brakes. After initial drop, air pressure must **not** drop further with engine idling.
- Turn off engine and rapidly apply and release brakes. Low-air warning must activate before gauge reads 60 PSI. Continue to fan down air pressures. Trailer brakes must apply with pressure between 45 and 20 PSI. Trailer Air Supply control knob will pop out.

Rebuild air pressure. Set parking brake(s) before exiting cab. Make the following brake checks during the walk-around:

- Adjustment – Check that angle between slack adjusters and pushrods is approximately the same on each side of each axle.
- Completely drain moisture from each air tank at least daily
- Make test stop before leaving yard
- *Older vehicles may have different controls



Special Checks

Placarding (if required)

- Recheck shipping papers to verify correct placards
- All placards must agree – front, rear, both sides

Tires

- On any axle, all tires must be of the same construction, i.e. bias-ply or radial

Step 8: Coupling System Area

Fifth wheel (lower)

- Securely mounted to frame
- No missing or damaged parts
- No visible space between upper and lower fifth wheel
- Locking jaws around the shank and *not* the head of kingpin
- Release lever properly seated and safety latch/lock engaged

Fifth wheel (upper)

- Kingpin not worn, bent, or damaged

Sliding fifth wheel

- Mechanism not worn, bent, damaged, or parts missing
- Properly lubricated
- All locking pins present and locked in place
- If air operated – no air leaks
- Check that fifth wheel not so far forward that tractor frame will strike landing gear during turns

Air and electric lines visible from this point

- Should be secure from dangling, snagging, and chafing
- Should be free from damage, oil, and grease

Step 9: Right Side of Trailer Area

Front trailer support (landing gear or dollies)

- Fully raised, no missing parts, not bent or otherwise damaged
- Crank handle present and secured (typically on left side)
- If power operated, no air or hydraulic leaks

Spare tire(s)

- Carrier or rack not damaged
- Tire and/or wheel securely mounted in the rack
- Tire and wheel condition adequate for a spare, proper size, properly inflated

Lights and reflectors

- Trailer side clearance lights clean, operating, and proper color
- Reflectors clean and proper color

Frame and body

- Frame and cross-members not bent, cracked, damaged, or missing
- Body parts not damaged or missing

Proper placarding

Step 10: Right Rear Trailer Wheels Area

Dual wheels

- Condition of wheels and rim – no cracks, missing or bent rims, broken spacers, studs, clamps, or lugs
- Condition of tires – properly inflated; valve stems not touching wheels, rims, or brake drum; valve caps in place; no serious cuts, bulges, tread wear, or any signs of misalignment and no debris stuck between them
- Tires same type, e.g., not mixed radial and bias types on the same axle
- Tires evenly matched (circumference)
- Wheel bearing and hub – no obvious leaking

Tandem axles

- Repeat wheel and tire inspection as above
- If equipped with sliding axles, check position and alignment; look for damaged, worn, or missing parts; all locks present, fully in place and locked against fallout
- Flexible air lines not cracked, cut, crimped, or otherwise damaged; secured against tangling, dragging, or chafing

Suspension

- Condition of spring(s), spring hangers, shackles, and U-bolts
- Axle alignment
- Condition of torque rod arms, bushings

Brakes

- Condition of brake drum(s)
- Condition of hoses, lines, valves
- Check slack adjusters
- Check air chamber mounting
- Check spring brakes (if so equipped)
- Drain moisture from air tank, close petcock

Step 11: Rear of Trailer Area

Lights and reflectors

- Rear clearance and identification lights clean, operating, and proper color
- Reflectors clean and proper color
- Taillights and stoplights clean, operating, and proper color

Cargo securement

- Cargo properly blocked, braced, tied, chained, etc.
- Tailboard up and properly secured
- End gates free of damage, properly secured in stake pockets
- Canvas or tarp (if required) properly lashed down to prevent water damage, tearing, billowing, or blockage of either the mirrors or the rear lights
- Rear doors securely closed, latched/locked; required security seals in place (Check side doors, if equipped)
- Underride guard in place – not cracked, bent, or broken

Step 12: Left Rear Trailer Wheels Area

Check all items as done on right side except for air tank draining

Step 13: Left Side of Trailer Area

Check all items as done on right side and check any traffic side doors

Step 14: Left Fuel Tank Area

Check all items as done on right saddle tank area except for spare tire plus:

- Battery (if not mounted elsewhere)
- Battery box securely mounted to vehicle
- Box has secure cover
- Battery(ies) secured against movement
- Battery case(s) not broken or leaking
- Fluid in battery(ies) at proper level for non-maintenance-free batteries:
 - Cell caps present and securely tightened
 - Vents in cell caps free of foreign material