

## Sample Pre-Trip Inspection of Tractor-Trailer Units

To be effective, a pre-trip inspection of a tractor-trailer unit must be thorough and systematic, and the individual performing the inspection must know what to look for. The following steps would be applicable to the inspection of a tractor-trailer unit, starting at the cab and following a clockwise direction around the vehicle. The “Remarks” box should be checked for those items needing attention, and details added in the “Remarks” section. Necessary repairs should be made before the vehicle is used.

### General condition of the vehicle:

	YES	REMARKS	N/A
No visible leaks under vehicle; unit sitting evenly; no critical damage			
Cab entry steps and grab handles			
Review the previous driver’s vehicle inspection report, where available			
Engine compartment—check oil level, coolant level, windshield washing fluid, belts, hoses, etc., as directed by your company policy			

### Apply parking brakes, start engine, and check:

	YES	REMARKS	N/A
Gauges; no warning lights; low air warning device should be on if air pressure is 60 psi or under; turn signal indicators; brake lights			
Air pressure buildup—4 minutes maximum from 50 psi to cutoff			
Apply service brakes—after initial pressure drop, loss less than 4 psi per minute			
Fan down brakes—low air pressure warning device activates at 60 psi			
Tractor protection valve should activate at 45-20 psi			
No excessive steering wheel play			
Horn(s), windshield wipers, heater, defroster, and mirrors			
Emergency equipment, such as fire extinguisher, reflective triangles, and fuses			

Shut off engine, turn on all lights (including four-way flashers), ensure parking brakes are applied, and check:

	YES	REMARKS	N/A
No audible leaks in brake system during inspection			
Left side front tire, wheel, lugs or studs, and brake components			
Headlights—low- and high-beam, four-way flashers, identification, and clearance lights			
Steering assembly			
Front suspension			
Right-side front tire, wheel, lugs or studs, and brake components			
Right side fuel tank securement and cap			
Exhaust system			
Air hose and electrical line connections; condition and proper suspension			
Right-side rear tires, wheels, lugs or studs, and brake components			
Tractor accessories, such as PTOs, header boards, spare tire racks, etc.			
Tractor frame and suspension			
Trailer accessories such as ladders and walkways, unloading hoses, pony motors, compressors, etc.			
Trailer reflectors and lights on right side			
Door hinges and latching mechanism on right side doors			
Trailer air tank securement and hoses			
Spare tire rack and securing system			
Right side trailer tires, wheels, lugs or studs, brake components, and wheel seals for oil lubricated wheels			
Trailer axle(s) and suspension			
Rear end protection, lights, reflectors, and mudflaps			
Door hinges and latching mechanism on rear doors			
Left side trailer tires, wheels, lugs or studs, brake components, and wheel seals for oil lubricated wheels			

	YES	REMARKS	N/A
Trailer reflectors and lights on left side			
Door hinges and latching mechanism on left side doors			
Landing gear			
Left rear tractor tires, wheels, lugs or studs, and brake components			
Trailer king pin plate securement			
Fifth wheel securement			
Drive line u-joints			
Left side fuel tank securement and cap			
Battery box securement and battery tie-down			

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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