CDL Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist (Class A and B)

Follows the order of the CDL vehicle inspection test in the state CDL manuals (AAMVA model). On the test: name each item, point to or touch it, and say what you are checking it for. Federal duty: 49 CFR 392.7 and 396.13.

Date _____ Unit / trailer _____ Driver _____

1. In cab and engine start

- ☐ **Dash lights:** left/right turn, four-way flashers, high beam, ABS (trailer ABS on then off), DEF if fitted
- ☐ **Emergency equipment:** spare fuses or circuit breakers, charged and secured fire extinguisher, 3 reflective triangles (or 6 fusees / 3 flares)
- ☐ **Windshield and mirrors:** clean, no cracks or obstructions; mirrors clean and adjusted (or cameras working)
- ☐ **Wipers and washers:** arms and blades secure, wipers work, washer fluid and washers work
- ☐ **Heater and defroster** work
- ☐ **Horn:** air and/or electric
- ☐ **Parking brake check:** parking brake on, pull forward gently, must hold
- ☐ **Trailer brake check (combination):** trailer brake on, pull forward gently, must hold
- ☐ **Service brake check:** at about 5 mph, brake: stops, no pull to either side

2. Air brake check: all four parts

> Missing any one of the four parts is an automatic fail on the test. Use the manufacturer's figures if they differ.

- ☐ **Governor cut-out:** build pressure, gauge works, cut-out at about 120 to 140 psi
- ☐ **Leak rate:** engine off, key on, parking brake released, full brake application, hold 1 minute: drop no more than 3 psi (single) or 4 psi (combination)
- ☐ **Low air warning:** fan the brake, warning comes on before 55 psi
- ☐ **Spring brake pop-out:** keep fanning, valve(s) pop out between 20 and 45 psi

Hydraulic brakes: pump the pedal 3 times, hold 5 seconds, pedal must not sink; check power assist if fitted.

3. Lights (from outside)

- ☐ Left and right turn signals, four-way flashers
- ☐ Low beams, high beams, clearance and marker lights
- ☐ Taillights; brake lights on with the pedal, off when released

4. Front and engine area (engine off)

- ☐ **Lenses:** proper color, clean, not broken or missing
- ☐ **Fluids:** engine oil, coolant, power steering fluid, brake fluid (hydraulic), between add and full
- ☐ **Leaks:** no puddles, drips, or leaking hoses and air lines
- ☐ **Steering:** box secure and not leaking, hoses sound, linkage not worn or loose, no missing nuts, bolts or cotter pins

5. Each axle: tires, wheels, suspension, brakes

- ☐ **Inflation:** checked with a gauge (kicking the tire gets no credit)
- ☐ **Tire condition:** no cuts exposing plies, no bulges, valve caps present, no mismatched duals
- ☐ **Tread:** 4/32 in on steering tires, 2/32 in on all others, in a major groove
- ☐ **Rims:** not cracked, bent or welded; no rust trails; bolt holes not elongated
- ☐ **Lug nuts:** all present and tight, no rust trails or shiny threads, no broken studs
- ☐ **Suspension:** springs not cracked, shifted or missing; U-bolts tight; air bags and shocks secure, not leaking; vehicle level
- ☐ **Brake lines and hoses:** not leaking, cracked, worn or frayed; couplings secure
- ☐ **Brake parts:** no grease or oil on linings, drums or discs

6. Side of vehicle

- ☐ Side lenses and reflectors: proper color, clean, intact
- ☐ Mirrors or cameras clean, brackets not bent, securely mounted

- [ ] Battery secure, connections tight, no heavy corrosion, box or cover secured
- [ ] Fuel and DEF tanks secure, caps tight, no leaks
- [ ] Frame: no cracks, broken welds or holes; trailer tandem release lever and pins secure

7. Rear of vehicle or trailer

- [ ] Rear lenses and reflectors: proper color, clean, not broken or missing
- [ ] Doors, tailgate, tarps and spare tire secured; load properly distributed and secured (392.9)

8. Coupling (combination vehicles)

- [ ] **Air and electric lines:** seated, locked and undamaged at both ends; not tangled, pinched or dragging; no air leaks
- [ ] **Fifth wheel skid plate:** securely mounted, no cracks or excessive wear, lubricated
- [ ] **Kingpin, apron, gap:** kingpin not bent or worn, apron not cracked, trailer flat on the plate with no gap
- [ ] **Locking jaws and release arm:** jaws closed around the kingpin, release arm engaged, safety latch in place, slider pins locked
- [ ] **Landing gear:** fully raised, crank handle secure, pads undamaged
- [ ] **Reflective tape** on trailer sides and rear

Before you drive

- [ ] Last driver vehicle inspection report reviewed and signed if a defect was reported (396.13)
- [ ] Parking brake set and vehicle in neutral whenever you get out; three points of contact