

Commercial Driver's License Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection Check List



August 22, 2011
Awaiting FMCSA Approval

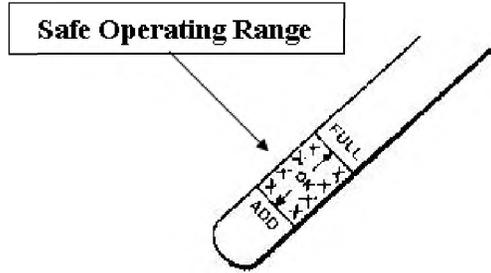
This manual has been designed to assist all applicants while performing the CDL vehicle pre-trip inspection. The chronological order of the components listed in this manual is similar to the order of the components listed on the score sheet used by each examiner to score an applicant while administering the pre-trip inspection skills test. You will be required to complete the inspection following the three steps in sequential order as reflected on the check-list sheet outlined in this manual (Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3) in that order. You must be able to identify and demonstrate your ability to inspect the vehicle for defects. You may check-off each item after you have fully inspected and explained the component and its inspection process to the examiner. However, if you fail to give correct commentary or give incomplete commentary, the examiner will not give you credit for that item.

Step One

Oil Level

Scoring Criteria:

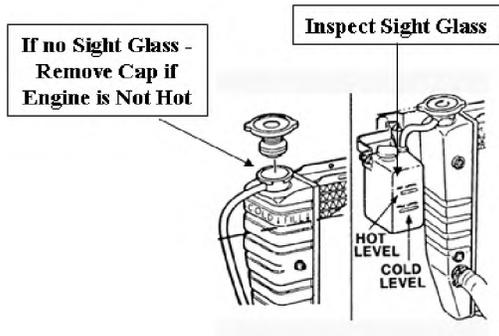
- Checks oil level while engine is off.
- Indicate where dipstick is located.
- Checks that oil level is above the refill mark, in a safe operating range.



Coolant Level

Scoring Criteria:

- Looks at sight glass on radiator or coolant reservoir; adequate level will show in sight glass. If no sight glass is available, the driver should describe what s/he would look for after removing radiator cap.

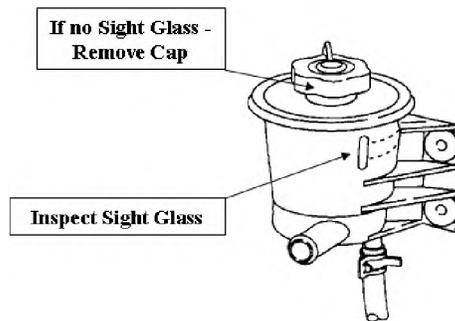


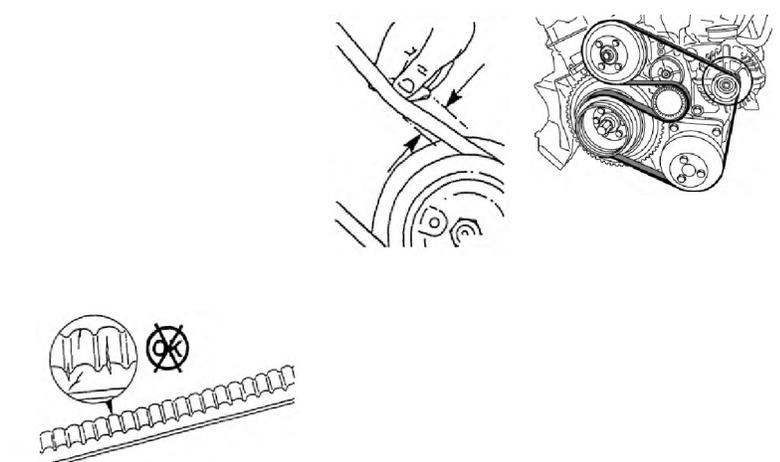
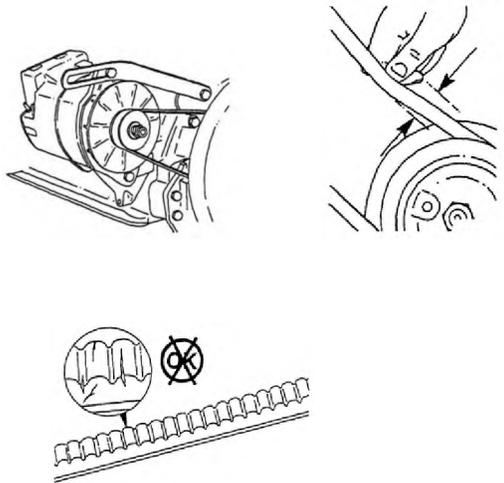
Special Note: If the is hot, do not let the driver remove the radiator cap. If there is no sight class, mark the item "correct" if the driver indicates that cap would be removed to view presence of coolant. Do no allow the driver to remove the cap.

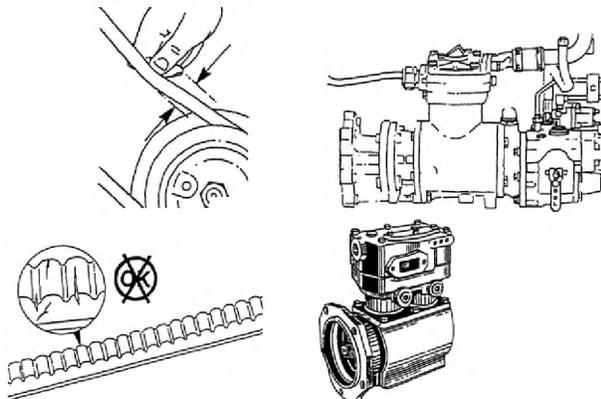
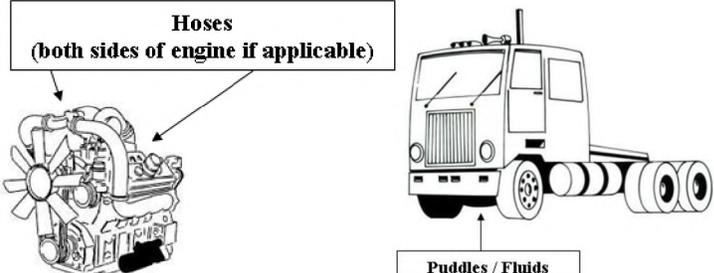
Power Steering Fluid (Belt)

Scoring Criteria:

- Identifies belt that drives power steering unit.
- With engine off, driver points to, touches, or presses belt to test is snug.
- Notes that belt is not frayed, no visible cracks, loose fibers,



<p>□ Water Pump</p>	<p>or signs of wear. Pushes belt with hand, if it deflects more than ½ to ¾ of an inch, driver observes that slippage is probably excessive.</p> <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly identifies water pump. • Confirms that water pump is mounted properly and not loose. • Identifies belt that drives water pump. • With engine off, points to, touches, or presses belt to test that it is snug. • Notes that the belt is not frayed and there are no visible cracks, loose fibers, or signs of wear. Pushes belt with hand, and if it deflects more than 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch, driver observes that slippage is probably excessive. 	<p>Special Note: Check that the driver is inspecting the correct belt. Power steering unit may not be belt driven. . If the component is not belt driven, the applicant must tell you the component is gear driven, is operating properly, is not damaged or leaking and is mounted securely.</p>  <p>Special Note: Check that the applicant is inspecting the correct belt. Water pump may not be belt-driven. If the component is not belt driven, the applicant must tell you the component is gear driven, is operating properly, is not damaged or leaking and is mounted securely.</p>
<p>□ Alternator Belt</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With engine off, driver points to or touches alternator. • Mentions that alternator is securely mounted and that all wires are securely fastened. • Identifies belt that drives alternator or generator. • With the engine off, points to, touches, or presses belt to see that the belt is snug. 	

<p>□ Air Compressor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes that the belt is not frayed, has no visible cracks, loose fibers, or signs of wear. Pushes belt with hand and if it deflects more than 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch, driver observes that slippage is probably excessive. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With engine off, driver points to or touches air compressor. Mentions that the compressor is securely mounted and not leaking. Identifies belt that drives air compressor. With engine off, driver points to, touches, or presses the belt to test that it is snug. Notes that the belt is not frayed, has no visible cracks, loose fibers, or signs of wear. Pushes belt with hand, and if it deflects more than 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch, driver observes that slippage is probably excessive. 	<p>Special Note: Check that the applicant is inspecting the correct belt. The alternator may not be belt-driven. If the component is not belt driven, the applicant must tell you the component is gear driven, is operating properly, is not damaged or leaking and is mounted securely.</p>  <p>Special Note: Check that the applicant is inspecting the correct belt. The compressor may not be belt-driven. If the component is not belt driven, the applicant must tell you the component is gear driven, is operating properly, is not damaged or leaking and is mounted securely.</p>
<p>□ Leaks/Hoses (Engine Compartment)</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks for puddles or dripping fluids on the ground under the engine or the underside of the engine and transmission. Inspects engine hoses for condition and leaks. Mentions this on both sides of the engine. 	 <p>Hoses (both sides of engine if applicable)</p> <p>Puddles / Fluids</p>

Step Two

Engine Start

Anti-lock Braking System

Safe Start

Air Gauge

Scoring Criteria:

- When starting the engine, the driver checks the dashboard to ensure the ABS lighting indicator illuminates and then promptly turns off. If the ABS lighting indicator remains illuminated the ABS is **not** functioning properly and needs to be serviced.
- For combination vehicles only, check the ABS light on the rear driver's side of the trailer. If the ABS light remains illuminated, the ABS is **not** functioning properly and needs to be serviced.

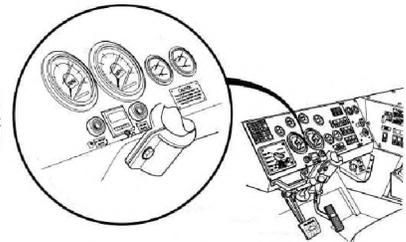
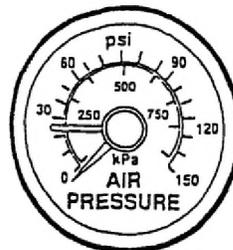
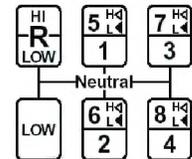
Scoring Criteria:

- Depresses clutch before turning on the starter. Keeps depressed until engine reaches idling speed.

On an automatic transmission, places the gear selector in the "park" or "neutral" position.
- On a standard transmission, places gearshift in "neutral".

Scoring Criteria:

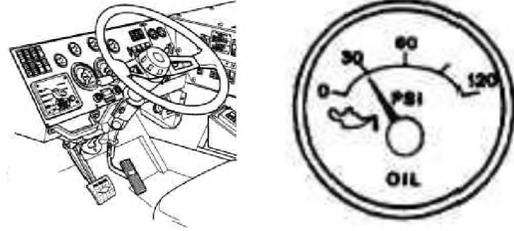
- Checks that the air gauge is working properly and that the air compressor builds the air pressure to governor cut-out at roughly 120-140 psi or as specified by manufacturer.



Oil Pressure Gauge

Scoring Criteria:

- With the key in the “on” position and the engine running, checks that oil pressure is building to “normal”
- The gauge shows increasing or “normal” oil pressure or warning light goes off.



Ammeter/ Voltmeter

Scoring Criteria:

- With engine running and key in the “on” position, checks that gauge(s) show alternator or generator is charging or warning light is “off”. Needle will jump and flutter, then indicate charge.



Temperature Gauge

Scoring Criteria:

- With key on and engine running ensures the temperature gauge is operational.
- Temperature should begin to climb to the “normal” range or temperature light should be off.

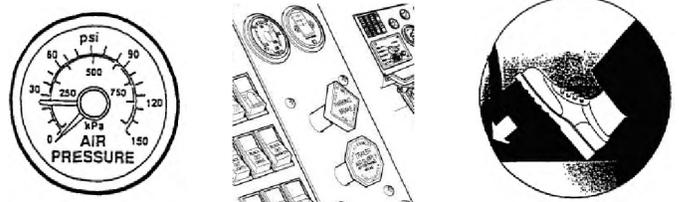


Air Brakes Check

Scoring Criteria:

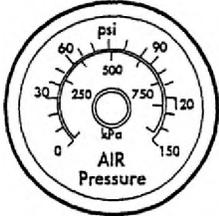
The driver must perform **all three** air brake checks correctly in order to receive credit in the scoring box. If the driver fails to **do any one part** correctly it is scored as an automatic failure for the Vehicle Inspection test.

For safety purposes, in areas where an incline is present, you must use wheel chocks during the air brake check. The proper procedures for inspecting the air brake system are as follows:



1. With the air pressure built up to governor cutoff (120 - 140 psi), driver shuts off the engine, chocks the wheels if necessary, releases the parking brake (all vehicles), and the tractor protection valve (combination vehicle) and fully applies the foot brake. The driver then holds the foot brake for one minute after stabilization of the air gauge. S/he then checks the air gauge to see that the air pressure drops no more than three pounds in one minute (single vehicle) or four pounds in one minute (combination vehicle) and listens for air leaks.

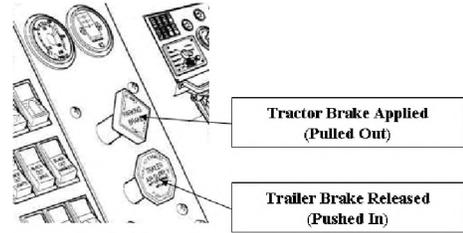
2. Without re-starting the engine, driver turns the key to the "on" or "battery charge" position. Next, s/he begins fanning off the air pressure by rapidly applying and releasing the foot brake. Low-air warning devices (buzzer, light, or flag) should activate before air pressure drops below 60 psi or level specified by manufacturer.



Parking Brake

Scoring Criteria:

- With the parking brake engaged (trailer brakes released on combination vehicles), checks that parking brake will hold vehicle by gently trying to pull forward with parking brake on.
- With the parking brake released and the trailer parking brake engaged (combination vehicles only), checks that the trailer parking brake will hold vehicle by gently trying to pull forward with the trailer parking brake on.



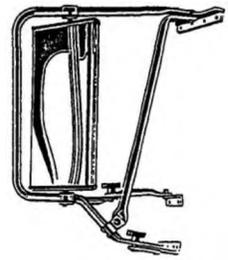
Tractor Brakes Released (Pushed In)

Trailer Brakes Applied (Pulled Out)

Windshield and Mirrors

Scoring Criteria:

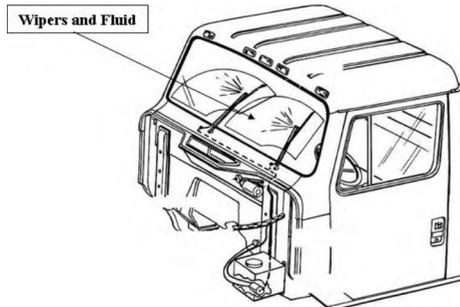
- Checks windshield to make sure it is clear and has no obstructions or damage to glass.
- Checks mirrors for proper adjustment.

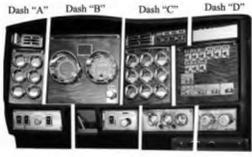
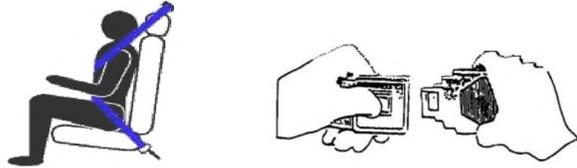


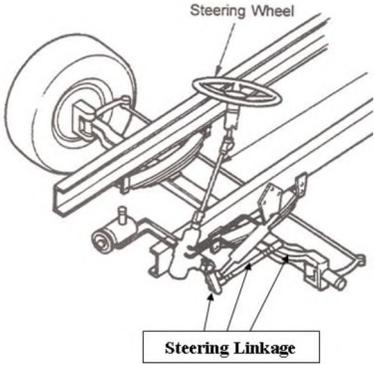
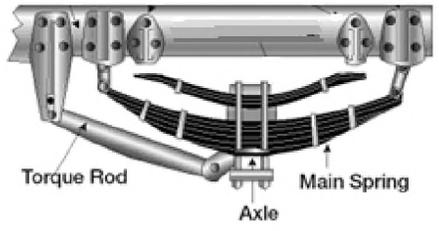
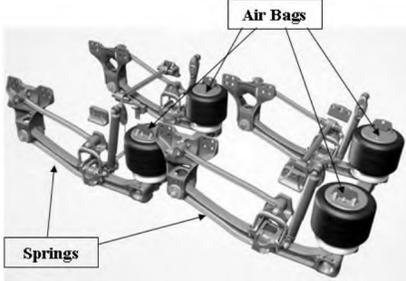
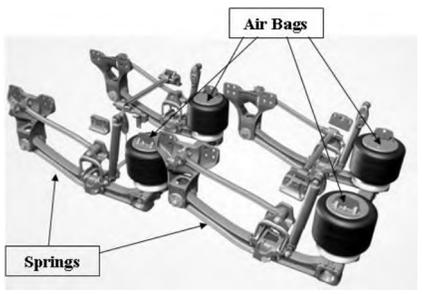
Washers/Wipers

Scoring Criteria:

- Checks that wiper arms and blades are secure, not damaged, and operate smoothly.
- If equipped, checks for windshield washer fluid and that windshield washer operate correctly.



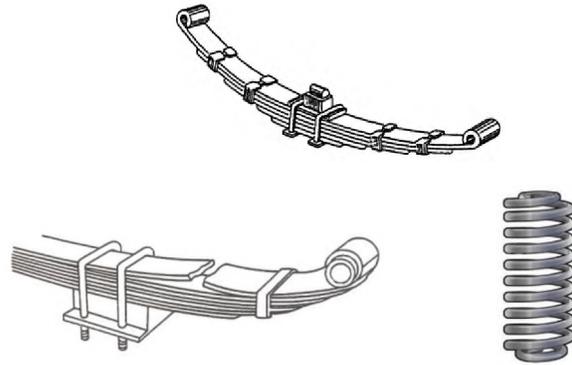
<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting Indicators	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checks that (dash) indicators for turn signals, flashers, and headlight high beams illuminate when corresponding lights are turned on. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Internal Lighting Indicators</p> 
<input type="checkbox"/> Horn(s)	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checks that air horn and/or electric horn(s) work. 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heater/Defroster	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows and/or describes how the heater(s) and defroster (s) work. 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Belt	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checks for properly secured, mounted, and adjusted safety belt. Safety belt should not be ripped or frayed. 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Equipment (Includes emergency kit and body fluid clean-up kit when vehicle is a school bus)	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check for spare electrical fuses, (if used) or identifies circuit breakers. Checks for emergency kit/body fluid cleanup kit when vehicle is a school bus. Check for three red reflective triangles, 6 fuses or 3 liquid burning flares. Check for a properly charged and properly secured 	

<p>Front Suspension</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spring/Air Bags/Shocks</p> <p>Spring/Air Mounts and Torque Arm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that connecting links, arms, and rods from the steering box to the wheel are not worn or cracked. • Checks that joints and socket are not worn or loose. • Checks for loose or missing nuts, bolts, or cotter pins. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirms that shock absorbers are secure and not leaking. • Look for missing, shifted, cracked, or broken leaf springs. • Look broken springs or distorted coil springs. • Checks air -ride suspension for damage and leaks. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks that spring attachments (brackets, bolts, bushings) are in place. • Checks for cracked or broken spring hangers • Checks for missing or damaged bushings. • Checks air bag mounts (bolts) are in place and not damaged. • Air ride suspension should be checked for damage and leaks. • If vehicles, is equipped with torsion bars, torque arms, or other types of suspension components, checks that they are not damaged and are mounted securely. 	 <p>Steering Wheel</p> <p>Steering Linkage</p>  <p>Torque Rod</p> <p>Main Spring</p> <p>Axle</p>  <p>Air Bags</p> <p>Springs</p>  <p>Air Bags</p> <p>Springs</p>
---	--	---

Spring Mounts /
U-Bolts

Scoring Criteria:

- Checks for broken, missing, or loose bolts (including U-bolts).
- Look for missing, shifted, cracked, or broken leaf springs.
- Look broken springs or distorted coil springs.

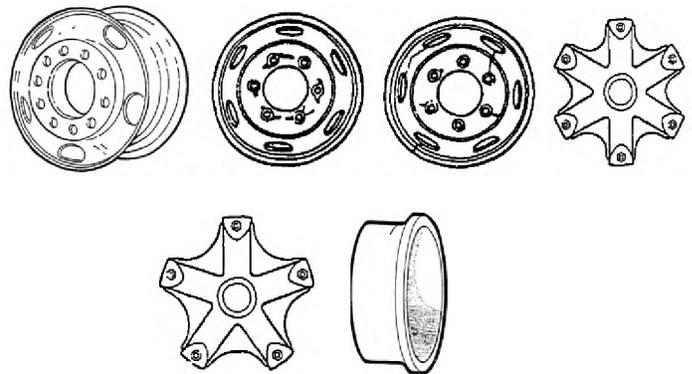


Front Wheel

Rims

Scoring Criteria:

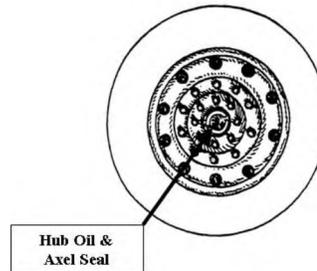
- Check for damaged or bent rims.
- Rims should not have welding repairs.
- Checks for rust trails that may indicate the rim is loose on the wheel.



Hub Oil Seal /
Axle Seals

Scoring Criteria:

- See that hub oil/axle (grease) seals are not leaking and if wheel has a sight glass, oil level is adequate.



Tires

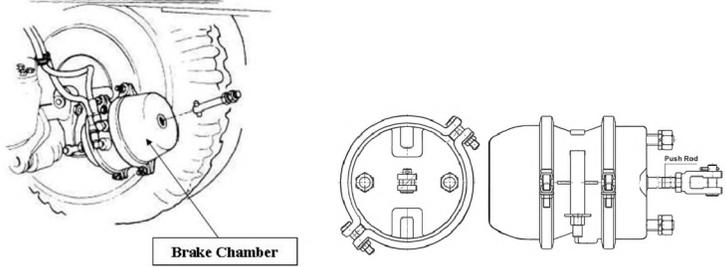
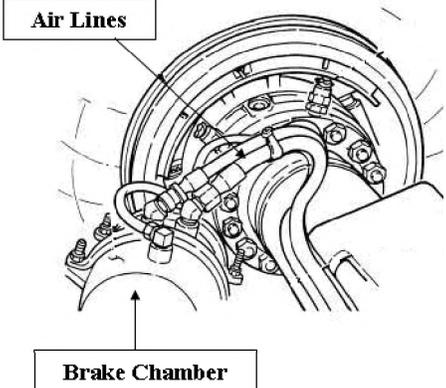
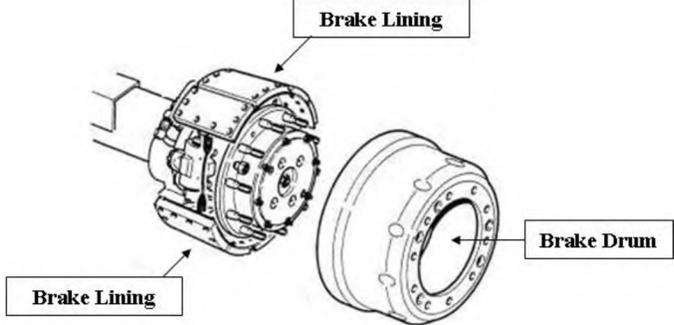
Scoring Criteria:

The following items must be checked on every tire.

- **Tread Depth:** Check for minimum tread depth (4/32 on steering axle tires, 2/32 on all other tires).

- **Tire Condition:** Check that tread is evenly worn and look for cuts or other damage to tread walls. (cuts, ripped, torn,



<p>☐ Brake Chamber</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See that chambers are not leaking, cracked, or dented and are mounted securely. • Makes sure there are no loose or missing clamps. 	 <p>Brake Chamber</p>
<p>☐ Brake Hoses/ /Lines</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks that hoses or lines can supply air or hydraulic fluid to brakes. • Checks for cracked, worn or frayed hoses, and all couplings and fittings are secure and not leaking. 	 <p>Air Lines</p> <p>Brake Chamber</p>
<p>☐ Brake Drum/Linings/Rotors/ Disk Pads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the brake drums and lining are enclosed by a backing plate (dust cover) you will have to explain to the safety officer the name of these components and what you would inspect them for if you could see them clearly. • Components such as Linings and drums should be free of grease, oil, etc. • Checks brake drums or rotors for cracks, dents, or holes. Also checks for loose or missing bolts. • Checks that brake linings or disc pads (where visible) are not worn dangerously thin. 	 <p>Brake Lining</p> <p>Brake Lining</p> <p>Brake Drum</p>

Bus Only

Passenger Entry / Lift

Scoring Criteria:

- Check that the entry door is not damaged, operates smoothly, and closes securely from the inside.
- Checks that hand rails are secure and the step light is working, if equipped.
- Checks that entry steps are clear with the treads not loose or worn excessively.
- If equipped with a handicap lift, look for leaking, damaged, or missing parts and explain how lift should be checked for correct operation. Lift must be fully retracted and latched securely.

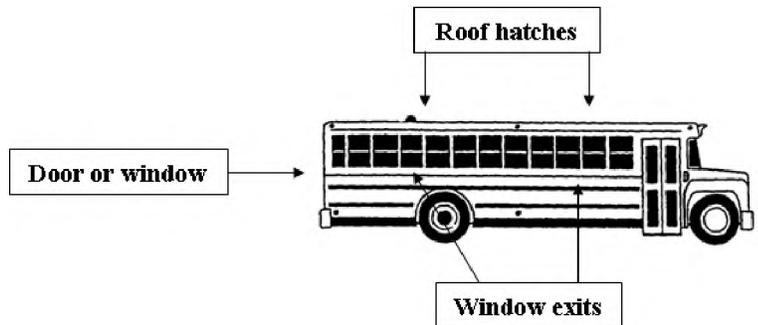
Emergency Exits

Scoring Criteria:

- Demonstrates that at least one emergency exits operate smoothly, closes securely and is not damaged. Must confirm that the exit works properly.
- Release handle can be operated properly both from the inside and outside.
- Points out and describes how all other those emergency exits operate.
- Checks any one emergency exit-warning device.



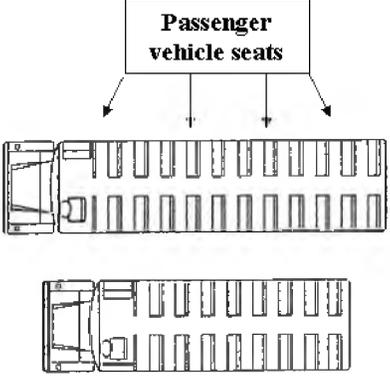
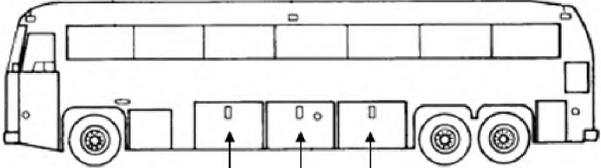
↑
**Passenger entry
and/or lifts**

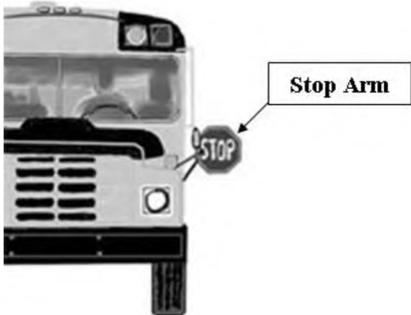
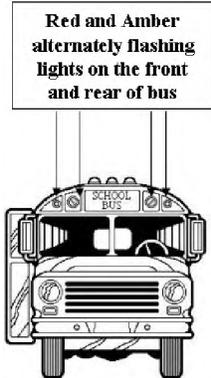


Door or window

Roof hatches

Window exits

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Seating</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks that there are no broken seat frames that seats are firmly attached to the floor. • Confirms that seat cushions are securely attached to the seat frames. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Passenger vehicle seats</p>   <p style="text-align: center;">Compartments</p> 
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Doors Secure (Baggage Compartments on Coach Transit Buses)</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that baggage and all other exterior compartment doors are not damaged, operate properly, and latch securely. 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Equipment (Includes emergency kit and body fluid cleanup kit when vehicle is a school bus)</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks For three red reflective triangles,6 fuses or liquid burning flares • Checks for spare electrical fuses (if used) or identifies circuit breakers. • Checks for a properly charged and properly rated fire extinguisher. • Checks for emergency kit/body fluid cleanup kit when the vehicle is a school bus. 	

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Stop Arm/ Safety Arm</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If equipped, check the stop arm to see that it is mounted securely to the frame of the vehicle. • Also, check for loose fittings and damage. • Check that stop arm extends fully when operated • Checks that stop arm lights are operational. • If equipped, checks that safety arm is securely mounted and functions properly in conjunction with stop arm. 	 <p>Stop Arm</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> School Bus Lights (front and back)</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks that strobe light (if equipped) is operational and is not broken • Checks alternately flashing amber lights (if equipped) are operational and not broken. • Checks alternately flashing red lights on both front and rear of vehicle, are operational and not broken. 	 <p>Red and Amber alternately flashing lights on the front and rear of bus</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Mirrors/Student Mirror</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks for proper adjustment. • Checks that all internal and external mirrors and mirror brackets are not damaged and are mounted securely with no loose fittings. • Checks that visibility is not impaired due to dirty mirrors. 	 <p>Mirrors</p> <p>Door</p>

Rear Wheels

- E** **R**
 Rims

- E** **R**
 Hub Oil/
Axle Seals

- E** **R**
 Tires

- E** **R**
 Lug Nuts

Scoring Criteria:

- Check for damaged or bent rims.
- Rims should not have welding repairs.
- Checks for rust trails that may indicate rim is loose on wheel.

Scoring Criteria:

- See that hub oil/axle (grease) seals are not leaking and if wheel has a sight glass, that oil level is adequate.

Scoring Criteria:

The following items must be checked on every tire.

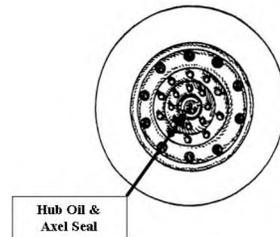
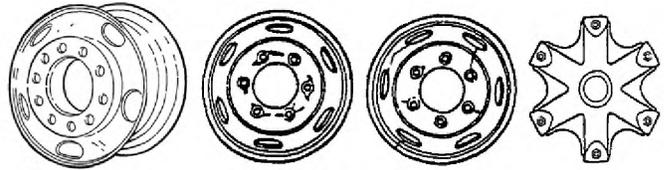
- **Tread Depth:** Check for minimum tread depth (4/32 on steering axle tires, 2/32 on all other tires).

- **Tire Condition:** Check that tread is evenly worn and look for cuts or other damage to tread walls. (cuts, ripped, torn, bulged)

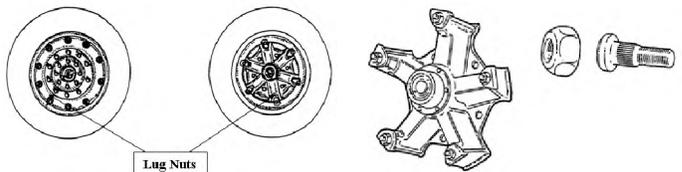
- **Tire Inflation:** Check for proper inflation by using a tire gauge.

Scoring Criteria:

- Check that all lug nuts are present.
- Check that there are no cracks radiating from lug bolt holes or distortions of the bolt holes.
- Checks that lugs are not loose (rust trails).



Note: You will **not** get credit if you simply kick the tires to check for proper inflation.



F **R**

- Spacers
or Bud Spacing

Rear Suspension

F **R**

- Springs/Air
Mounts and
Torque Arm

F **R**

- Spring
Mounts

Scoring Criteria:

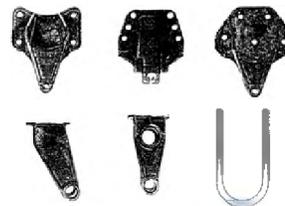
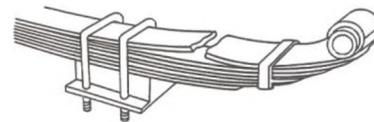
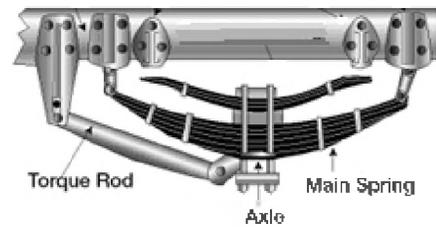
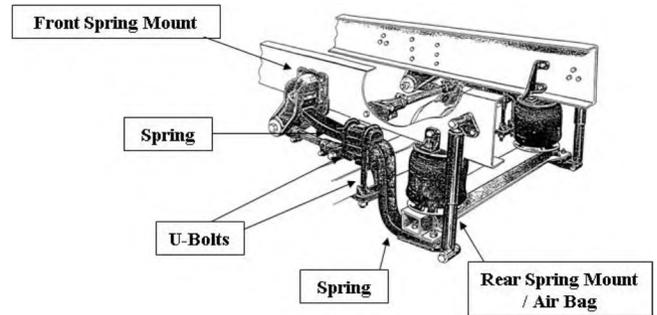
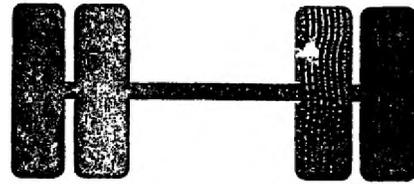
- If equipped, checks that spacers are not bent, damaged, or rusted through.
- Checks disc (Budd) wheels for even spacing, damage, and foreign objects.

Scoring Criteria:

- Look for missing, shifted, cracked, or broken leaf springs.
- Checks for cracked or broken spring hangers.
- Checks for missing or damaged bushings.
- Checks for air bag mounts (bolts) are in place and not damaged.
- If the vehicle is equipped with torsion bars, torque arms, or other types of suspension components, checks that they are not damaged and are mounted securely.

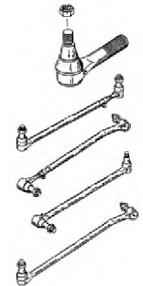
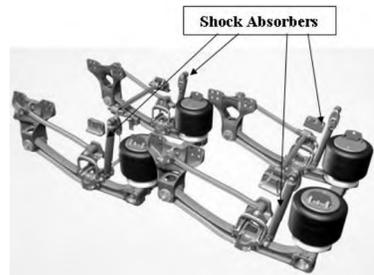
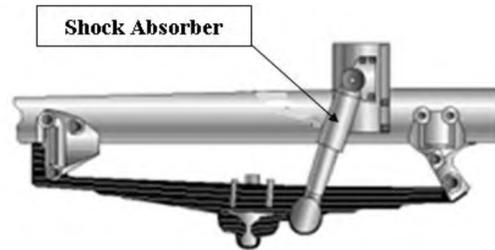
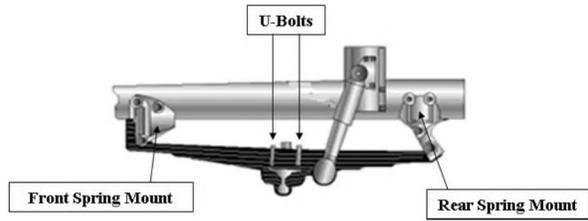
Scoring Criteria:

- Looks for cracked or broken spring hangers, missing and broken, loose, or missing bolts, U-bolts.
- Looks for broken or distorted coil springs.
- Checks air ride suspension for damage and leaks.
- Confirms that shock absorbers are mounted securely and not leaking.
- (The mounts



Various Spring Mounts
& U-Bolt

should be checked at each point where they are secured to the vehicle frame and axle(s)).



F R

Torsion Bars / Shocks

Scoring Criteria:

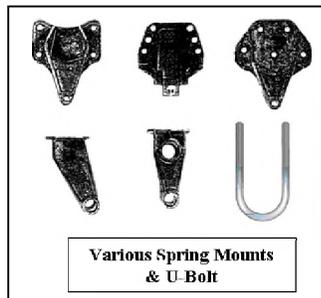
- See that shock absorbers are secured and that there are no leaks.

- If the vehicle is equipped with torsion bars, torque arms, or other types of suspension components, check that they are not damaged and secured to the vehicle frame and axles(s).

U-Bolts

Scoring Criteria:

- Checks for broken, missing, or loose bolts (including U-bolts).



← ← U-Bolts

Rear Brakes

- E R Slack
 Adjuster and Pushrod

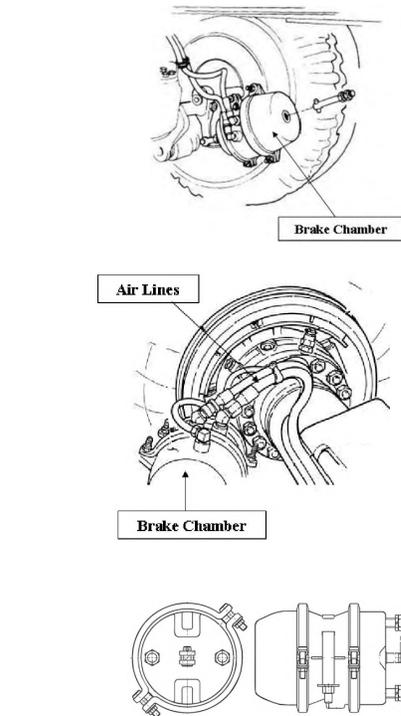
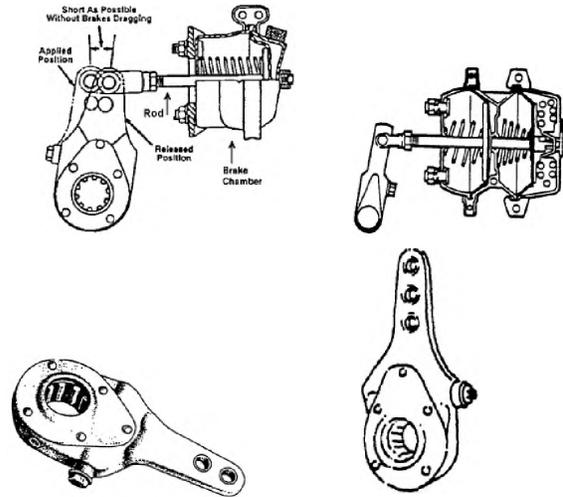
- E R Brake
 Chambers

Scoring Criteria:

- Checks slack adjuster and pushrod for bent broken, loose, or missing parts.
- If brakes were released and when pulled by hand, push rod should not move more than approximately one inch.

Scoring Criteria:

- See that chambers are not leaking, cracked, or dented and are mounted securely.
- Makes sure there are no loose or missing clamps.



Brake Hoses/Lines

F **R**

Brake Drums/Linings/Rotors/Disk Pads

F **R**

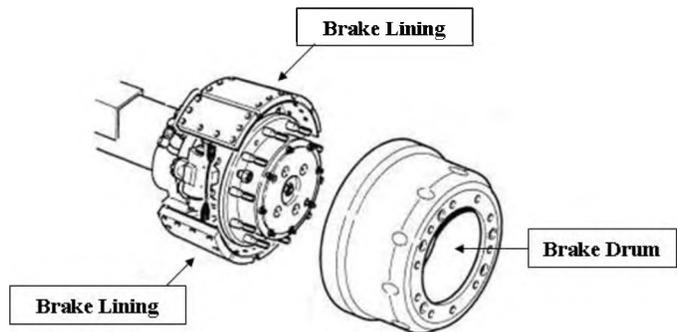
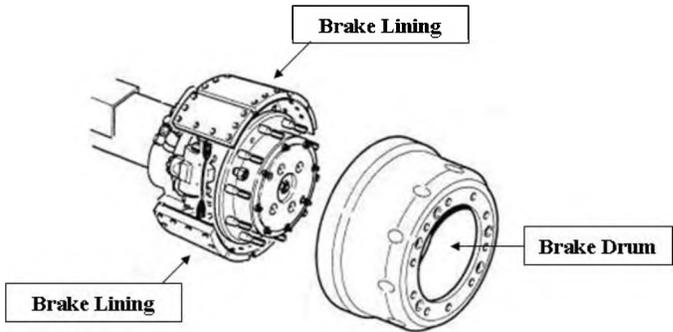
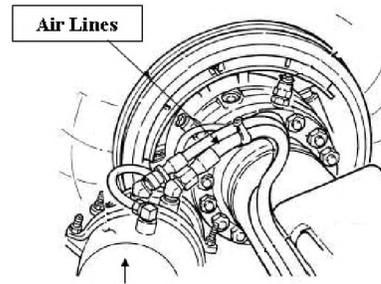
Scoring Criteria:

- Checks brake drums or rotors for cracks, dents, or holes. Also checks for loose or missing bolts.
- Checks that brake linings or disk pads (where visible) are not worn dangerously thin.
- Checks brake drums and linings for contaminants such as grease, oil, etc.

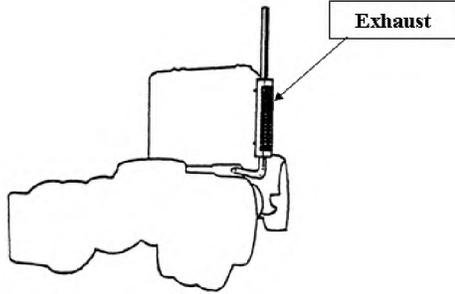
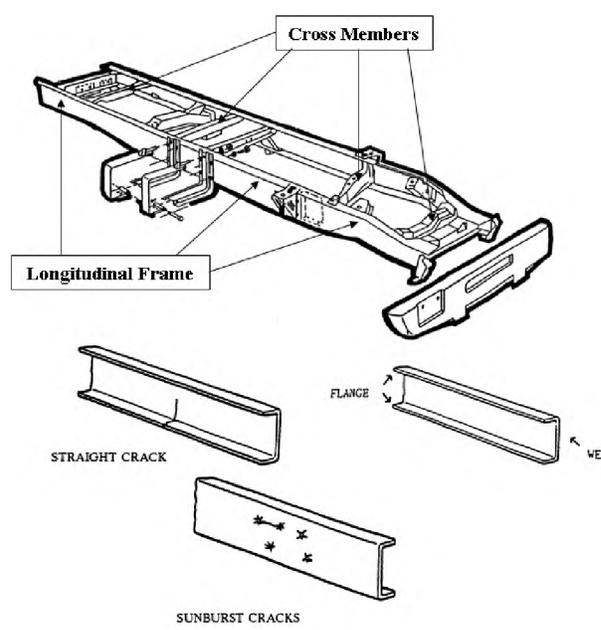
Scoring Criteria:

- Checks brake drums or rotors for cracks, dents, or holes. Also checks for loose or missing bolts.
- Checks that brake linings or disk pads (where visible) are not worn dangerously thin.

- Checks brake drums and linings for contaminants such as grease, oil, etc.



- If the brake drums and linings are enclosed by a backing late (dust cover) you will have to explain to the examiner the name of these components and what you would inspect them for if you could see them clearly.

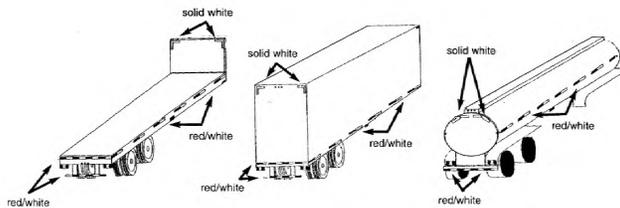
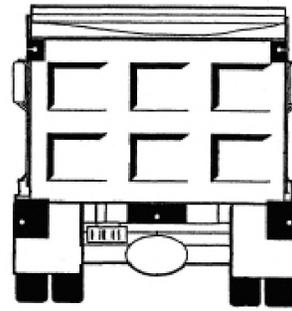
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Exhaust System</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks that exhaust system is connected tightly, mounted securely, and there are no loose clamps • Checks exhaust system for damage and signs of leaking (rust or carbon soot). Exhaust system should have no cracks, holes, or severe dents. 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Frame</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks for cracks and bends in longitudinal frame members. • Checks for loose, cracked, bent, broken, or missing cross members. • Looks for signs of breaks or holes in box or trailer floor. 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Splash Guards</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If equipped, checks that splash guards or mud flaps are not damaged and are mounted securely. 	

Rear of Vehicle

Lights/Reflectors/Reflector Tape Condition (Sides and Rear)

Scoring Criteria:

- Check that all external lights and reflective equipment are clean, functional and not missing.
- Light and reflector checks include: you will need to specify colors-
- Clearance Lights (red on rear, amber elsewhere).
- Taillights
- Turn signals
- Four-way flashers
- Brake lights
- Red reflectors (on rear) and amber reflectors (elsewhere)



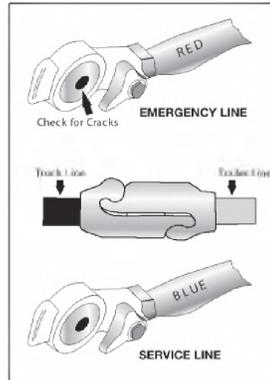
Typical Retroreflective Tape Markings

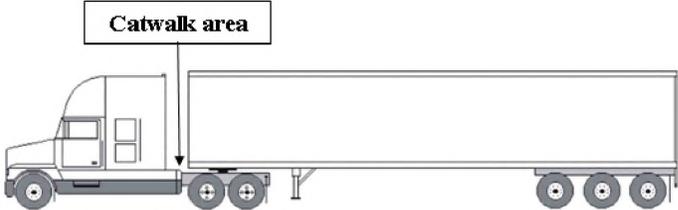
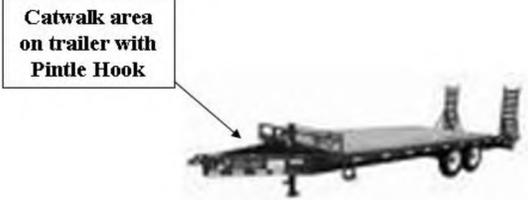
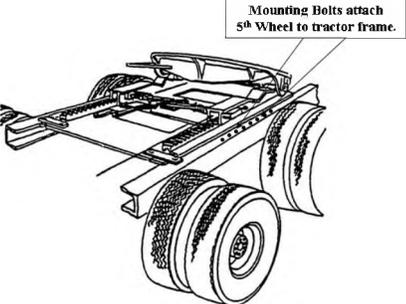
All Combination Vehicles

Air/Electrical Connectors

Scoring Criteria:

- Check that air connectors are sealed and in good condition.
- Checks fittings out of truck and trailer.
- Checks all connections out of truck and trailer.
- Checks that glad hands are locked in place, free of damage or air leaks.
- Checks that trailer trailer electrical plug is firmly seated and locked in place on both truck and trailer.



<p>☐ Catwalk/Steps</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that the catwalk and steps are solid, securely bolted to tractor frame, and clear of loose objects. • Pintle Hook: Platform located in the tongue of the trailer used for storage. 	 <p>Catwalk area</p>  <p>Catwalk area on trailer with Pintle Hook</p>
<p>☐ Mounting Bolts</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for loose or missing mounting brackets, clamps, bolts, or nuts. • Checks that both the fifth wheel and the slide mounting appear solidly attached in place. • Checks for loose or missing mounting bolts and for broken welds for pintle hook and other type hitch mount, and tongue/draw-bar assembly, to ensure that they are solidly attached. 	 <p>Mounting Bolts attach 5th Wheel to tractor frame.</p>
<p>Sliding Pintle Hook</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pintle -Hook; checks for loose or missing mounting bolts and for broken welds on pintle -hook and other hitch mounts. • If equipped, checks that the sliding pintle is secured with no loose or missing nuts or bolts and cotter pin is in place. 	

Fifth Wheel Only

Release Arm and Safety Latch

Locking Jaws or Lever

Kingpin/Apron/Gap

Scoring Criteria:

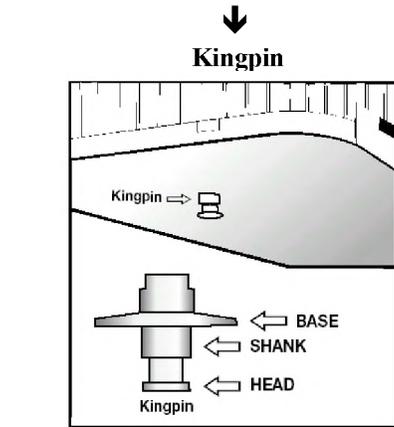
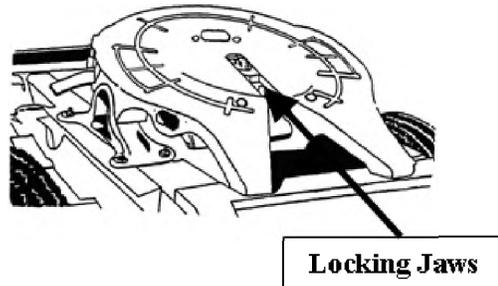
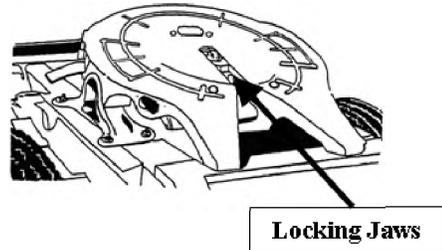
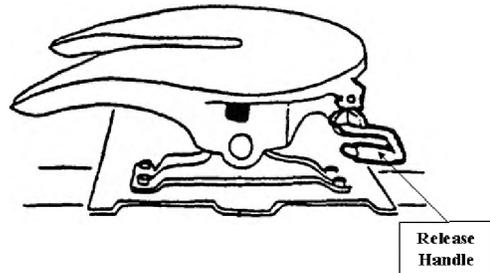
- Checks that the release arm is secure and all the way in.
- If equipped with a safety latch, checks that the release arm is in the engaged position and the safety latch is in place.
- Pintle Hook; check to see that the hitch release lever is in place and secure.

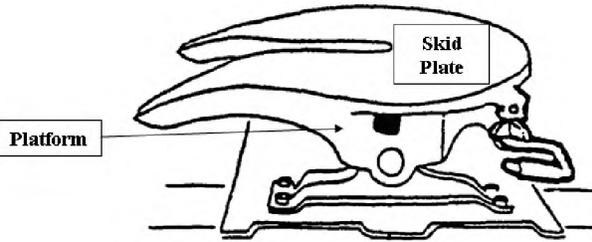
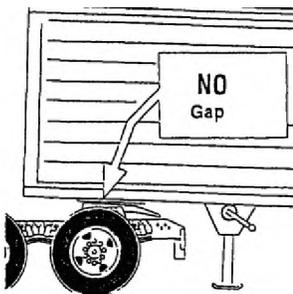
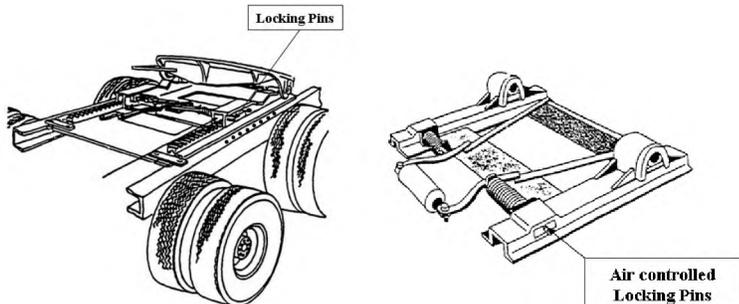
Scoring Criteria:

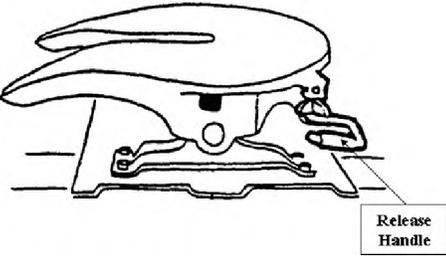
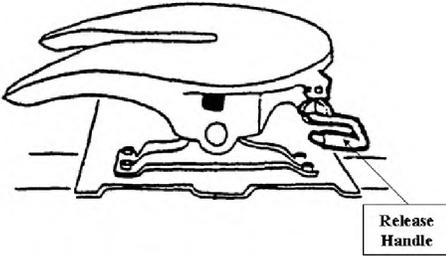
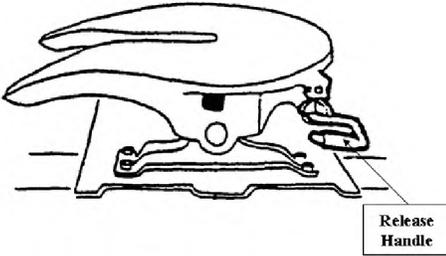
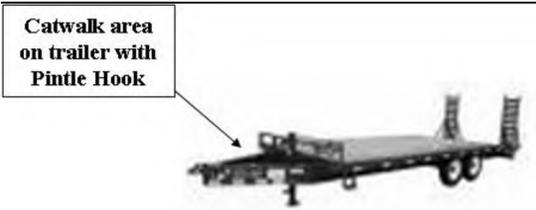
Checks that fifth wheel locking jaws or lever are secured around the kingpin.

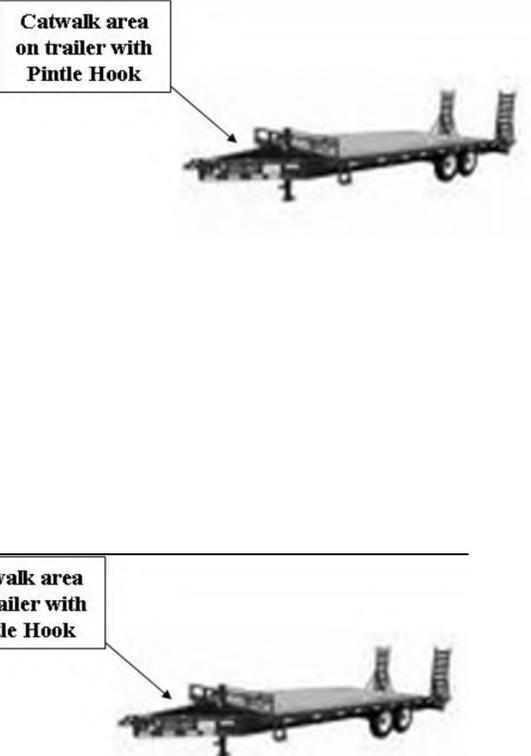
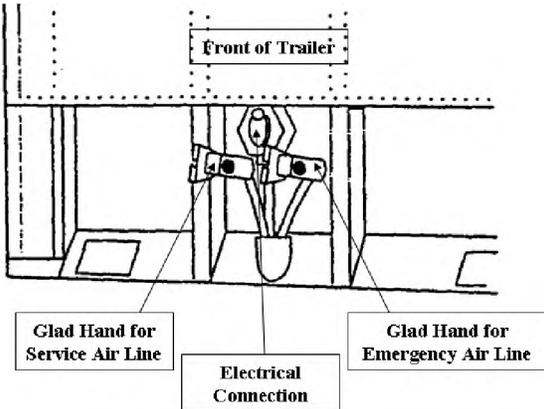
Scoring Criteria:

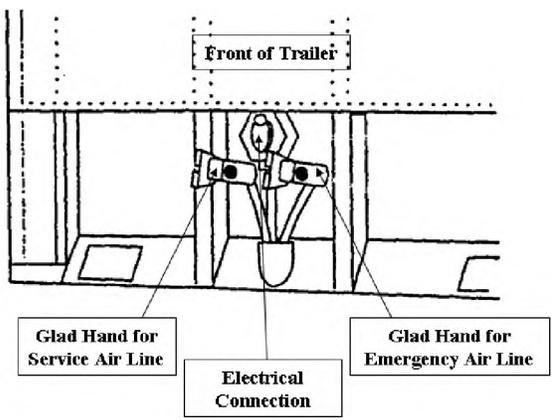
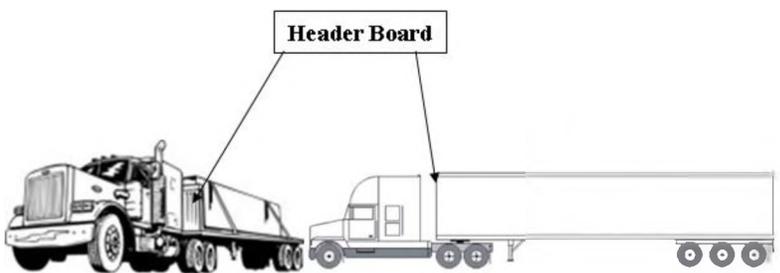
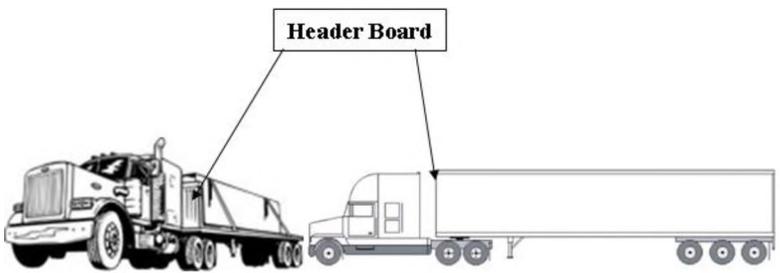
- Explains that the locking jaw holds the kingpin in place and that the kingpin is not bent or damaged.
- Make sure that the visible part of the apron is not bent, cracked, or broken.
- Check that the trailer is laying flat on the fifth wheel skid plate and that there is no space between the apron and the 5th wheel (no gap).
- Checks for king pin lock.
- Pintle Hook; check that the tongue/drawbar is not bent or twisted and check for broken welds or stress cracks.

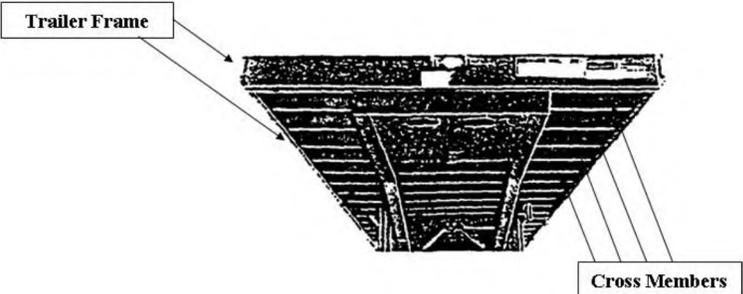
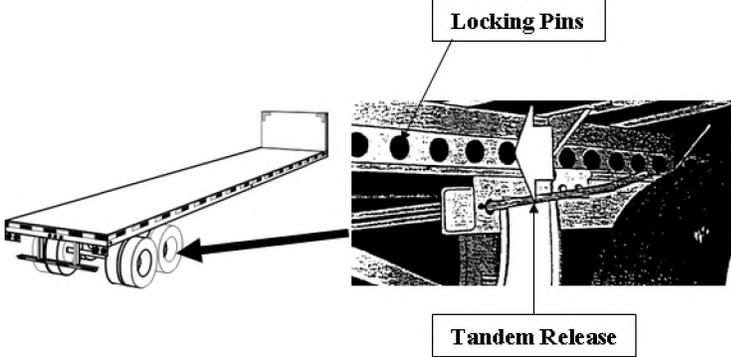
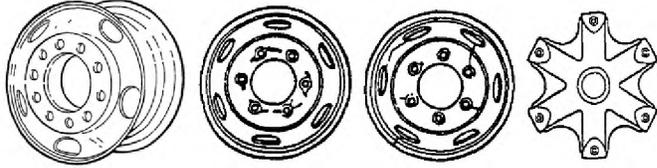


<p>Platform Base (Fifth Wheel)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kingpin/ Apron / Gap</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sliding Fifth Wheel Locking Pins (Clearance)</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for cracks or brakes in the platform structure which supports the fifth wheel skid plate. • Checks that platform is securely mounted to frame or sliding assembly • Pintle Hook; check the pintle hook for cracks, breaks, and excessive wear. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains that the locking jaw holds the kingpin in place and that the kingpin is not bent or damaged. • Make sure that the visible part of the apron is not bent, cracked, or broken. • Check that the trailer is laying flat on the fifth wheel skid plate and that there is no space between the apron and the 5th wheel (no gap). • Checks for kingpin lock. • Pintle Hook; check that the tongue/drawbar is not bent or twisted and check for broken welds or stress cracks. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If equipped, look for loose or missing pins in the slide mechanism of the sliding fifth wheel. If air powered, check for leaks. 	  
--	--	--

<input type="checkbox"/> Fifth-Wheel Skid Plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure pins are fully engaged. • Check that the fifth wheel is positioned properly so that the tractor frame will clear the landing gear during turns. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks fifth-wheel skid plate for proper lubrication. • Checks that fifth-wheel skid plate is securely mounted to the platform and that all bolts and pins are secure and not missing. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Fifth-Wheel Skid Plate</p>  
<input type="checkbox"/> Hitch Release Lever	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks to see that the hitch release lever is in place and secure. 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Devices	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks to make sure the latch is secured and locked in place, cotter pin is not missing, is in place and not damaged. • Safety chains are hooked and crisscrossed, free of kinks and excessive slack, cotter pins to hooks are in place and hooks are secured with hooks pointing in and outward position. • If the trailer is equipped with electric brakes, checks that breakaway chains or cables with battery back-up are not missing or damaged. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Note: On other types of coupling systems (i.e., ball hitch, draw-bar/eye, etc.) driver inspects the locking mechanism for missing or broken parts and security. If present, safety chains or cables must be secure and free of kinks and excessive slack.

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Tongue/Draw-bar</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tongue Storage Area</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks to see that the hitch release lever is in place and secure. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks to make sure the latch is secured and locked in place, cotter pin is not missing, is in place and not damaged • Safety chains are hooked and crisscrossed, free of kinks and excessive slack, cotter pins to hooks are in place and hooks are secured with hooks pointing in an outward position. • If trailer is equipped with electric brakes, checks that breakaway chains or cables with battery back up are not missing or damaged. 	
<p>TRAILER</p> <p>Trailer Front</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Air/Electrical Connectors</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks that trailer connectors are sealed and in good condition. • Checks fittings out of truck and trailer. • Checks all connections out of truck and trailer. • Checks that glad hands are locked in place and free of damage. • Checks that trailer electrical plug is firmly seated and locked in place on both truck and trailer. 	

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Air/Electrical</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Checks that air hoses , electrical lines, and electrical line insulation are not cut, cracked, chafed, spliced, taped, or worn (steel braid/electrical conductor should not show through). •Air and electrical line insulation are not tangled, crimped or pinched, or being dragged against tractor parts. 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Header board or Bulk Head</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If equipped, checks the header board or bulkhead to see that it is secure, free of damage, strong enough to contain cargo. • If equipped, the canvas or tarp carrier must be mounted and fastened securely. • On enclosed trailers, checks the front area for signs of damage (i.e., cracks, bulges, or missing rivets). 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Clearance Lights/Reflectors</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Lights/Reflectors</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that all external lights and reflective equipment are clean, functional and not missing... • <u>Light and reflector checks on trailer front include:</u> (you will need to specify colors) • Clearance Lights (red on rear, amber elsewhere). • Red reflectors (on rear) and amber reflectors 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Clearance Lights/Reflectors On Header Board</p>

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Frame</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that doors open, close, and latch properly from the <u>outside</u>. • Checks that ties, straps, chains, and binders are secure. • If equipped with a cargo lift, look for leaking damaged or missing parts and explains how it should be checked for correct operation. • Lift should be fully retracted and latched securely. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks for cracks or bends in the longitudinal frame members. • Checks for loose, cracked, bent, broken or missing cross members. • Looks for signs of breaks or holes on box or trailer floor. 	 <p>Trailer Frame</p> <p>Cross Members</p> <p>Special Note: Cracks in members are most likely to appear midway between points of attachment to vehicle assemblies (i.e., half way between tractor cab and rear tractor wheels). Driver only needs to check one for credit.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Frame and Tandem Release</p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If equipped, make sure the locking pins are locked in place and release arms is secure. 	 <p>Locking Pins</p> <p>Tandem Release</p>
<p>Rear Wheels</p> <p>E R Rims</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for damaged or bent rims. • Rims should not have welding repairs. • Checks for rust trails that may indicate rim is loose on wheel. 	

E R Hub Oil / Axle Seals

E R

Tires

E R

Lug Nuts

E R

Spacers or Budd Spacing

Scoring Criteria:

- See that hub oil/axle grease seals are not leaking and if a sight glass is present, that the oil level is adequate.

Scoring Criteria:

The following items must be checked on every tire.

- **Tread Depth:** Check for minimum tread depth (4/32 on steering axle tires, 2/32 on all other tires).

- **Tire Condition:** Check that tread is evenly worn and look for cuts or other damage to tread walls. (cuts, ripped, torn, bulged) Also, make sure that valve caps and stem are not missing, broken, or damaged

- **Tire Inflation:** Check for proper inflation by using a tire gauge.

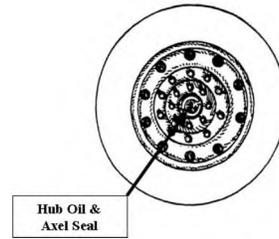
Scoring Criteria:

- Check that all lug nuts are present.
- Checks that lug nuts are not loose (rust trails around nuts).
- Checks that there are no cracks radiating from lug bolt holes or distortions of the bolt holes.

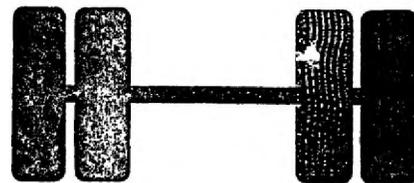
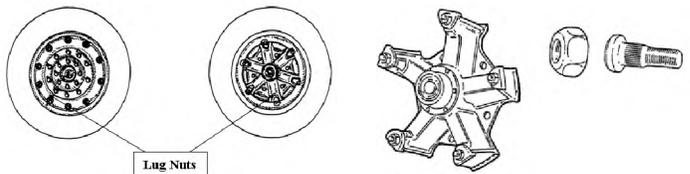
Scoring Criteria:

- If equipped, checks that spacers are not bent, damaged, or rusted through.

- Checks disc (Budd) wheels for even spacing, damage, and foreign objects.



Note: You will **not** get credit if you simply kick the tires to check for proper inflation.

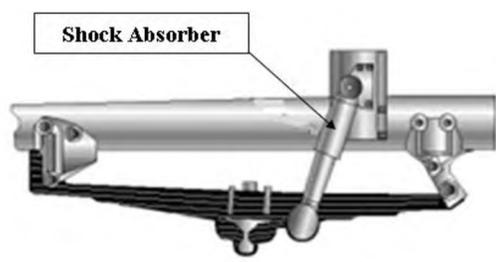
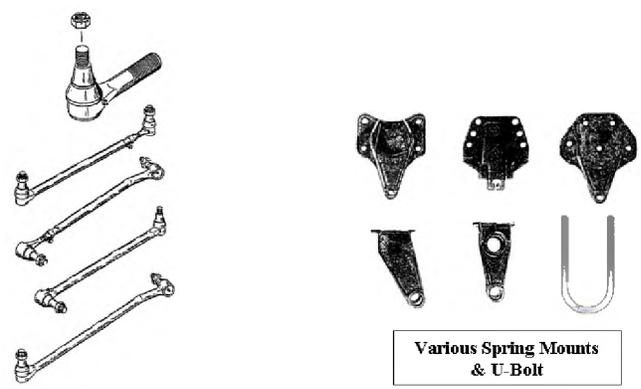
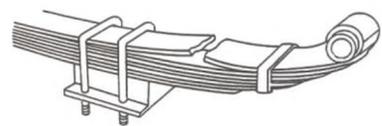
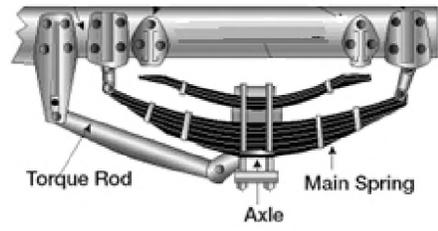
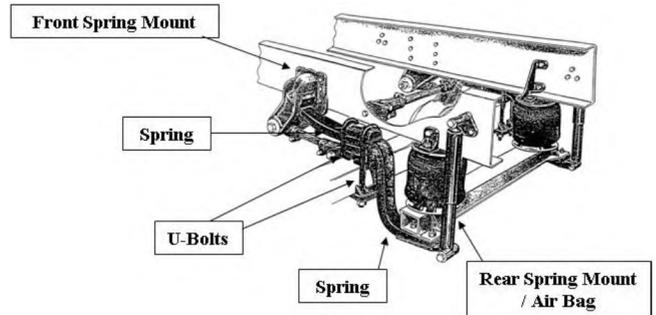


Rear Suspension

- E** **R** Springs/Air Mount and Torque Arm

Scoring Criteria:

- Checks that spring attachments (brackets, bolts, bushing) are in place.
- Checks for cracked or broken spring hangers.
- Checks for missing or damaged bushings.
- Checks that air bag mounts (bolts) are in place and not damaged.
- If vehicle is equipped with torsion bars, torque arms, other types of suspension components, checks that they are not damaged and are securely mounted.



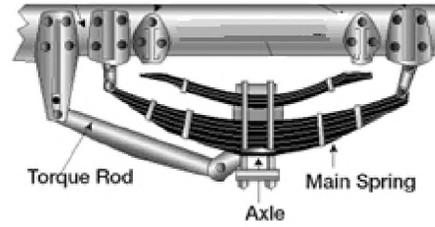
- E** **R** Springs/Air Bags/ Shocks

Scoring Criteria:

- Looks for missing, shifted, cracked, or broken leaf springs.
- Looks for broken or distorted coil

springs.

- Checks for air-ride suspension for damage or leaks.
- Confirms that shock absorbers are secure and not leaking.

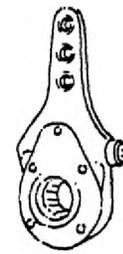
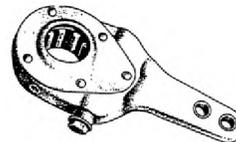
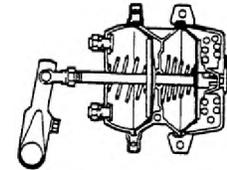
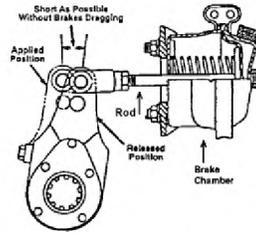
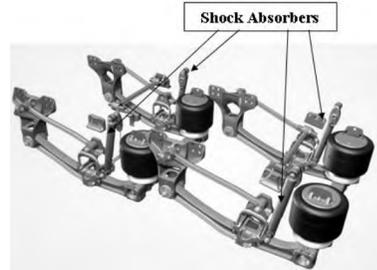


Rear Brakes

- F** Slack Adjuster and Pushrod
- R**

Scoring Criteria:

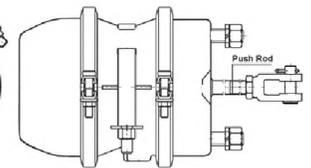
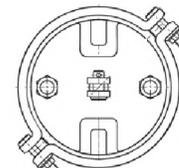
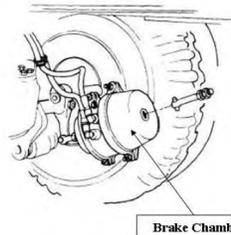
- Checks that slack adjuster is securely mounted.
- Checks slack adjuster and pushrod for bent, broken, loose, or missing parts.
- Explains, that if the brakes were released and when pulled by hand, the pushrod should not move more than approximately one inch.



- F** Brake Chamber
- R**

Scoring Criteria:

- See that chambers are not leaking, cracked, or dented and are mounted securely.
- Makes sure that there are no loose or missing clamps.

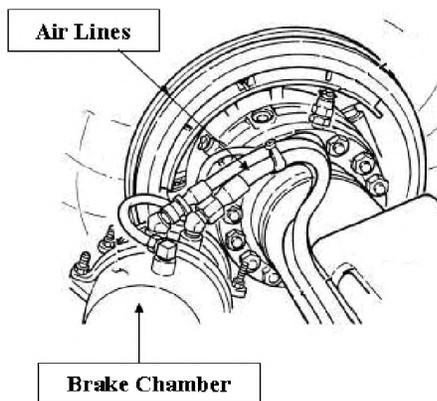


E R

- Brake Hoses/
Lines

Scoring Criteria:

- Checks that hoses or lines can supply air or hydraulic fluid to brakes.
- Checks for cracked, worn or frayed hoses, and that all couplings and fittings are secure and not leaking.

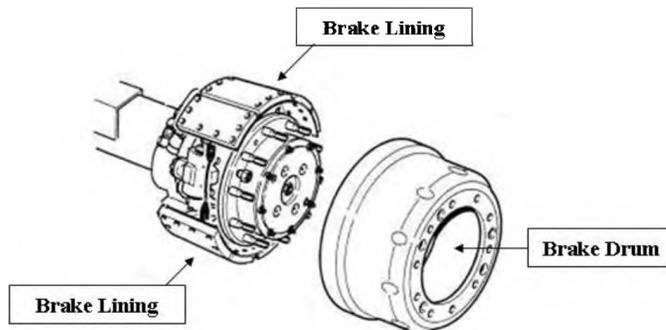


E R

- Brake
Drums/Lining s/Rotor
/Disk Pads

Scoring Criteria:

- Checks brake drums or rotors for cracks, dents, or holes. Also checks for loose or missing bolts.
- Checks that brake linings or pads (where visible) are not worn dangerously thin.
- Checks brake drums and linings for contaminants such as grease, oil, etc.



Special Note:

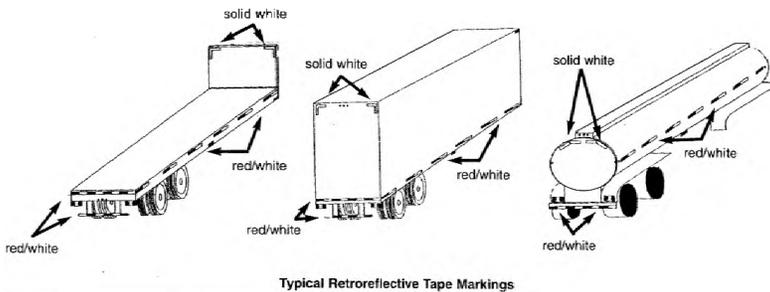
- On some brake drums, there are openings where the brake linings can be seen from the outside of the drum. For this type drum, check that a visible amount of brake lining is showing.
- If the brake drums and lining are enclosed by a backing late (dust cover) you will have to explain to the examiner the name of these components and what you would inspect them for if you could see them clearly.

Rear of Trailer

- Lights Operations
Check (Sides and Rear)

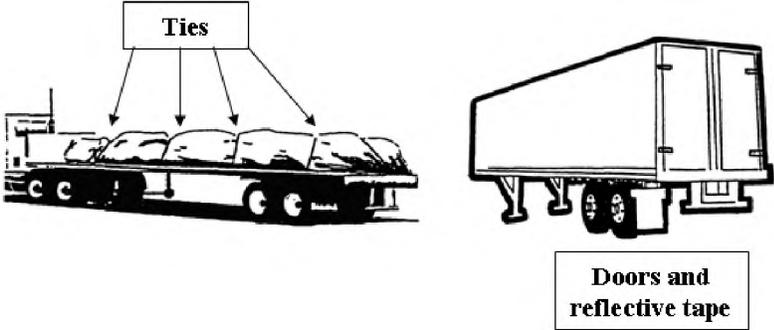
Scoring Criteria:

- Checks that clearance lights are in proper working order.
- Checks that rear running lights (tail) are in proper working order.
- Checks that each turn signal and 4-way flasher light works.



Special Note:

If asked, the examiner may assist the driver in checking the external operation of the lights. The driver is responsible for telling the examiner exactly which lights s/he would like the examiner to inspect.

<p>□ Doors/Ties/Lifts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks that brake lights come “on” when brakes are applied and turn “off” when brakes are released. <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If equipped, check that doors and hinges are not damaged and that they open, close, and latch properly from the <u>outside</u>. • Check that ties, straps, chains, and binders are secure. • If equipped with a cargo lift, look for leaking damaged or missing parts and explain s how it should be checked for corrected operation. • Lift should be fully retracted and latched securely. 	 <p>The diagram shows two views of a truck. On the left, a side view of a flatbed truck with a box labeled 'Ties' and arrows pointing to the cargo. On the right, a side view of a box trailer with a box labeled 'Doors and reflective tape' pointing to the rear doors.</p>
---------------------------	---	---

Pre-trip Vehicle Inspection. You will be tested to see if you know whether your vehicle is safe to drive. You will be asked to do a pre-trip inspection of your vehicle and explain to the examiner what you would inspect and why.

During the pre-trip inspection, you must show that the vehicle is safe to drive. You will have to walk around the vehicle and point to or touch each item and explain to the examiner what you are checking and why. Each applicant must have the knowledge on how to inspect the entire vehicle because for the test you do not know what part of the vehicle inspection you will be asked to perform. They may also be asked to perform an entire vehicle inspection.

The Pre-Trip Inspection Skills Test performed to receive a commercial driver’s license is only a test, that allows the tester to determine through your performance if you demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities to properly conduct a pre-trip vehicle inspection.(See the required skills below from Part 383.13 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR’s).

383.113 Required skills.

(a) Pre-trip vehicle inspection skills. Applicants for a CDL must possess the following basic pre-trip vehicle inspection skills for the vehicle class that the driver operates or expects to operate:

(1) *All test vehicles.* Applicants “must be able to identify each safety-related part” on the vehicle and explain what needs to be inspected to ensure safe operating condition of each part.

The above regulation references “**must be able to identify each safety related part**”. If the department was allowed to design a check-off sheet that named the vehicle parts with an opportunity for the applicant to check off each component as it was inspected, the driver would still be meeting the requirements to “identify each part”. If the driver sees the name of a part on the inspection sheet but does not identify it correctly he/she would not receive credit for that part. Similarly, even if the parts are named on an inspection sheet the driver still has to point out the correct component and verbalize the correct and complete commentary of inspection criteria to receive credit for the component.

Once you become a licensed commercial vehicle driver pre-trip inspections of your vehicle are your daily responsibility and required before each trip. See below just a couple of areas of the FMCSR’s that will impact your daily operations when you operate commercial motor vehicles.

Pre-Trip Inspection

According to Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 392.7, a commercial motor vehicle may not be driven unless the following items have been verified as safe by a pre-trip inspection: service brakes, hand brake, steering mechanism, all lighting devices, tires, horn, windshield wipers, rear view mirror and any coupling devices. Under CFR 392.8, drivers must check cargo or any securing devices within the first 50 miles of a trip to make sure no cargo shifts or falls from the vehicle

Inspection Report

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR)

CFR 396.13 requires a pre-vehicle inspection report before every operation. This verifies that the vehicle is in safe operating condition. The driver is also responsible for reviewing any previous inspection reports before operating. As the driver is required to sign the report, it is advised that the inspection be made properly, with any needed repairs being made before the trip.

To be fully prepared for the CDL skills test (Pre-Trip Inspection, Basic Control Skills, and On-Road) you need to study Sections 10, 11, and 12 of the South Carolina Commercial Driver’s License Manual.

