Pre-trip inspection checklist: tractor-trailer

Date _____ Time _____ Driver _____ Odometer _____

Tractor no. _____ Trailer no. _____ Location _____ Carrier _____

Walk around in the same order every time. Air brake checks (leak rate, low air warning, spring brakes): follow your vehicle manual and state CDL manual.

1. ENGINE COMPARTMENT (ENGINE OFF)	OK	DEFECT
Oil, coolant, power steering and washer fluid levels	☐	☐
No leaks under the engine or on the ground	☐	☐
Belts and hoses: no cracks, fraying or looseness	☐	☐
Alternator, air compressor and water pump mounted and secure	☐	☐
Wiring: no bare, loose or chafed wires	☐	☐

2. IN CAB AND ENGINE START	OK	DEFECT
Gauges normal: oil pressure, coolant temperature, voltage	☐	☐
Air pressure builds normally (air brakes)	☐	☐
Low air pressure warning works (air brakes)	☐	☐
Parking brake holds; service brake stops the vehicle	☐	☐
Steering wheel free play not excessive	☐	☐
Horn works	☐	☐
Wipers and washers work; windshield clear and not cracked in view	☐	☐
Mirrors clean, secure and adjusted	☐	☐
Heater and defroster work; seat belt latches	☐	☐

3. LIGHTS AND REFLECTORS	OK	DEFECT
Headlights high and low beam	☐	☐
Turn signals and 4-way flashers	☐	☐
Clearance, identification and marker lights	☐	☐
Brake lights and tail lights (tractor and trailer)	☐	☐
Reflectors and reflective tape clean and in place	☐	☐

4. STEERING AND SUSPENSION	OK	DEFECT
Steering box, linkage and drag link: no missing nuts, bolts or cotter pins	☐	☐
Springs, spring hangers, U-bolts: none broken or shifted	☐	☐
Shock absorbers and air bags (air ride): no leaks or damage	☐	☐

5. BRAKES	OK	DEFECT
Slack adjusters and push rods: not broken, loose or missing	☐	☐
Brake chambers: secure, no leaks	☐	☐
Brake hoses and lines: no cracks, chafing or leaks	☐	☐
Drums or rotors and linings (where visible): no cracks or contamination	☐	☐

6. WHEELS, RIMS AND TIRES (EACH AXLE)	OK	DEFECT
Steer tires at least 4/32 in tread; all others at least 2/32 in	☐	☐
Inflation correct; no cuts, bulges or exposed cord	☐	☐
Rims not cracked or bent; no welding repairs	☐	☐
Lug nuts present and tight; no rust trails	☐	☐
Hub oil seals not leaking; duals not touching	☐	☐

7. COUPLING DEVICES	OK	DEFECT
Fifth wheel mounted securely; locking jaws closed around kingpin	☐	☐
Release arm in locked position; no gap between fifth wheel and apron	☐	☐
Air lines and electrical cord connected, not chafing; glad hand seals OK	☐	☐
Landing gear fully raised, crank handle secured	☐	☐
Sliding fifth wheel and trailer tandem locking pins engaged	☐	☐

8. TRAILER AND CARGO	OK	DEFECT
Frame, cross members and floor: no cracks or holes	☐	☐
Doors, hinges and latches secure	☐	☐
Cargo secured; load within limits	☐	☐
Mud flaps and DOT bumper in place	☐	☐
Trailer brakes hold (tug test)	☐	☐

9. EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	OK	DEFECT
Fire extinguisher: charged, mounted, rated (5 B:C or two 4 B:C; 10 B:C if placarded)	☐	☐
3 reflective warning triangles (or fusees where allowed)	☐	☐
Hazmat papers and placards, if carried	☐	☐

Result: ☐ No defects found ☐ Defects found: DVIR no. _____ ☐ Last DVIR and repair certification reviewed (396.13)

Defects or remarks

Driver signature and date _____