This guide is a memory aid for performing a Class A CDL pre-trip inspection.

Use this guide as a memory aid ONLY. Every company's pre-trip inspection varies, as do pre-trip inspection tests administered as part of formal CDL training.

Tips For Inspecting Vehicle Components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Any Component</th>
<th>Belts</th>
<th>Fluid Reservoirs</th>
<th>Hoses</th>
<th>Metal Parts</th>
<th>Rubber Parts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check that it doesn't have excessive play, and no splits or cuts.</td>
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<td>Check dipstick locations and that all fluids are at proper levels.</td>
<td>Check that there are no splits or cuts, and no leaks. Check that it’s secure at both ends.</td>
<td>Check that they’re securely mounted and not broken or cracked. Check that there are no illegal welds.</td>
<td>Check that there are no abrasions, bulges, or cuts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEFORE THE INSPECTION

- Double-check the VIN, insurance, and registration
- Inspect on level ground and with a clear view, away from other vehicles.
- Keep the key in your pocket
- Use wheel chocks before going under any part of the vehicle
- Wear a high-visibility vest, gloves, and eye protection

What To Check:

- Are the lights on the front of the vehicle securely mounted, clean, and intact?
- Are there any leaks under the vehicle?
- Is the vehicle leaning or sagging?
- Is there any visible damage to the vehicle?
- Is the cargo secured?

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Engine Compartment

What To Check:

- Fluid levels
- Fluid leaks
- Belts & Hoses
- Alternator
- Water Pump
- Air Compressor
- Axle
- Steering shaft, gear box, and linkage
- Springs
- Shock absorbers & suspension
- Brake chambers & hoses

Wheels / Tires

- Rims
- Tires
- Lug nuts
- Valve stems

Front of Vehicle

- Lights
- Windshield
- Wipers
- Hood
- Grill
- License plate
- Bumper
- Leaks

Driver’s Side & Passenger Side

- Driver door & mirror
- Fuel tank & cap
- Lights & reflectors
- Hood latch
- Emergency equipment

Rear of Vehicle

- Clearance
- Reflectors
- Lights
- Turn signals
- Brakes
- Marker lamps
- Doors & latches
- Cargo securement devices
- DOT bumper
- Splash guards
**TRAILER**

- Wheels tires, rims, and lug nuts
- Lights & reflectors
- Frame & crossmembers
- Tandem release
- Floor
- Landing gear

**COUPLING**

- Air lines
- DOT tape
- Doors or ties
- Splash guards
- Electrical connections
- Suspension

- Mounting bolts / welds
- Pintle hook / ball
- Safety latch / locking device
- Safety chains / cables
- Eye / coupler
- Drawbar / tongue

**IN-CAB / ENGINE START**

- Seat Belt
- Turn signal indicator
- Steering wheel
- Clutch pedal
- Seat
- Horns
- Mirrors
- Windshield
- Wipers & washers
- Oil & air pressure
- Ammeter/volts
- Water temperature
- Heater & defroster
- Paperwork
- Emergency equipment

Air brake checks can be broken down into three categories.

You can remember them using the acronym **LAB**.

**L**: Testing for **leaks**.

**A**: Testing the **alarms**.

**B**: Testing the **buttons**.