

# Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist | Freight Trucks

Pre- and post-trip vehicle inspections prevent vehicle-related accidents. They're also legally required. Based on customer feedback and our industry expertise, we've outlined below an effective path to ensuring proper pre- and post-trip inspections for trucks. Consider this your guide to the flow of areas and components drivers and operators should check to ensure their equipment is in good working order.



## Phase 1

Ensure the following are in good working order and secured:

- ☐ brakes, including lining, hoses and tubing
- ☐ lights, reflectors and mirrors
- ☐ windshield and side door windows
- ☐ tires, including rims and bolt holds
- ☐ your cargo and anything being transported

Prepare for HoS compliance by:

- ☐ verifying the ELD functions correctly
- ☐ having any necessary supporting documents you may need in case the ELD experiences a glitch
- ☐ having up to eight days of logs as backup

Under the hood, verify:

- ☐ oil levels are topped up
- ☐ oil fill tube is secure
- ☐ alternator is secure
- ☐ alternator peripherals (wires, belt, etc.) are in place and in good condition
- ☐ windshield washer fluid levels are filled
- ☐ water pump is secure
- ☐ fan blades and shroud are securely in place
- ☐ antifreeze levels are safe

Check underneath the vehicle for leaking fluid or foreign substances.

## Phase 2

Double check all parts and accessories are in place and not in need of repair, including:

- ☐ windshield and wipers
- ☐ rear-vision mirrors
- ☐ horns and other alert notifications
- ☐ couple devices or mechanisms
- ☐ additional/fifth wheels
- ☐ power units or trailers
- ☐ emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers, spare fuses, warning devices, etc.

## Phase 3

Ensure the area inside and outside of the cab is clean, including:

- ☐ license plate
- ☐ grill
- ☐ pipes
- ☐ windows

Before starting the engine, adjust:

- ☐ mirrors
- ☐ backrests
- ☐ steering column or wheel
- ☐ latches and emergency restraints

If you share a vehicle:

- ☐ note if the vehicle emergency kit needs any replacements
- ☐ contact a technician for any urgent repairs
- ☐ take your paperwork and documentation with you
- ☐ check for dings, scrapes, scratches that may have occurred that day or, if you have time in the morning, the day before

If you're not an independent operator, note any dings, scrapes and scratches for the vehicle's owner.

**Pro Tip:** Making sure inspections are done properly are your edge over the competition. Our Electronic Verified Inspection Reporting (EVIR®) system reduces inspection time by more than 50% over paper-based inspections.

For more info, check out [www.zonarsystems.com](http://www.zonarsystems.com)

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