

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Pre-trip Vehicle Safety Inspection

When driving a personal vehicle for everyday use, most drivers simply jump in and go. However, for commercial motor vehicles used to transport cargo or passengers, extra consideration should be taken to ensure that they are safe and ready for the road.

Pre-trip vehicle inspections can catch potential problems before they have a chance to endanger the safety of you and others on the road. Take care of problems right away to prevent future costs and delays.

Driving Compartment

Start your inspection in the driving compartment.

- Turn on the engine.
- Check that all gauges and warning lights are functioning properly upon startup.
- Turn the steering wheel back and forth, making sure there is not any excessive play.
- Check that the horn is working and audible.
- Check that windshield wipers are in good working condition.

Outside Check

Start your external check at the front of the vehicle and work your way to the back. Then, circle around to the opposite side and make your way back to the front.

Lights

Not only can a missing signal light lead to an accident, but a burned-out bulb could also lead to a costly ticket.

- Make sure all headlights, clearance lights, taillights, brake lights, side marker lights, license plate lights, reflectors and turn signals are clean and operational.

Tires

Tire failure can be very dangerous and can be time consuming to repair.

- Check that all lug nuts are securely fastened and that tires are at the proper pressure.
- Check tread depth. Pay special attention to any balding or irregular wear.
- Make sure a spare is available and that it too is properly secured for travel.

Trailer

If your vehicle is pulling a trailer:

- Ensure all hoses and lines running from the vehicle to the trailer are properly attached.
- Check all couplings, including fifth wheels, tow bars and all safety locking devices.
- For covered trailers make sure all compartment doors are closed and locked as required.

Cargo

- Whether cargo is exposed or in a covered trailer, make sure that it cannot shift during transportation.
- Check all restraining and tie-down straps for damage that could cause them to fail. Replace if necessary.
- If transporting hazardous materials, make sure all placards and other warning materials are properly displayed.