



VEHICLE PRE TRIP INSPECTIONS



A driver must perform a Pre-trip inspection daily in order to identify problems that could cause either a breakdown or an accident. Section 396.13 of the FMCSA states that before driving a commercial vehicle a driver must make sure the vehicle is in safe operating condition, review the last inspection report and sign the report noting any deficiencies were fixed.

In order to do a proper pre-trip inspection, the driver must check the operating condition of the following items:

- Brakes including the trailer connections, slack adjusters and parking brake
- The steering mechanism
- Lighting devices and reflectors
- Tires must be at least 2/32 and 4/32 on your steering axles and air pressure 100 psi.
- Horn
- Windshield wipers
- Mirrors
- Coupling devices
- Emergency required equipment (fire extinguisher, spare fuses, triangles, flares)

Please remember you must always have the ignition key in your pocket so nobody can start the truck while you're doing the inspection. Always check underneath the truck for any oil leaks and check the engine compartment to inspect the levels of engine oil, power steering fluid, coolant levels and windshield washer fluid. It's important to verify all belts are free of cuts, frays, cracks and they have the correct tension.

