



**North American
Transport Services**

SHIFTING GEARS



Shifting correctly helps you stay in control of your vehicle, helps with fuel efficiency and extends the engine's and transmission's lifetime. It is important to shift correctly so your vehicle will travel in the right gear at all times. Many times drivers think that by coasting or leaving the gear in neutral on a downhill they're saving fuel, but the truth is they're getting themselves in a very dangerous situation. You can easily overheat your breaks and crash on a downhill because you can't get your transmission in gear.

For most heavy duty vehicles, the transmissions require double clutching in order to change gears due to the fact that these type of transmissions are non-synchronized. Shifting gears requires practice, if you remain too long in neutral, you may have difficulty putting the vehicle into the next gear. If so, don't try to force it or you'll begin to damage the transmission.

Once you get familiar with range, range selector, rpm, velocity, and torque of your equipment, you can begin to anticipate when to shift gears and some experienced drivers can even shift their trucks without using the clutch except for the first gear.

It is important for you to be in the right gear on a downhill so you avoid overheating your brakes and you stay in control of your vehicle. Downshift before starting down the hill, and make sure you are in a low enough gear, usually lower than the gear required to climb the same hill.

The same principle applies when entering a curve. You must slow down to a safe speed, and downshift to the right gear before entering the curve, keep both hands on the steering wheel during the curve and then speed up as soon as you are out of the curve

.Here's a description of the basic method for Shifting Up:

- Release the accelerator and push in the clutch and shift to neutral at the same time.
- Release the clutch.
- Let the engine and gears slow down to the rpm required for the next gear.
- Push in the clutch and shift to the higher gear at the same time.
- Release the clutch and press the accelerator at the same time.

Downshifting, like upshifting, requires knowing when to shift. Use either the tachometer or the speedometer and downshift at the right rpm or road speed.

