PRE-TRIP INSPECTION CHECKLIST

FMCSA §396.13 | Daily Vehicle Condition Report

FIRST UNDERWRITERS
Insurance Brokers
(425) 242-5357 | firstunderwriters.com

Driver: _____ **Unit #:** _____ **Odometer:** _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

ENGINE COMPARTMENT

- ☐ Oil level adequate
- ☐ Coolant level adequate
- ☐ Power steering fluid level
- ☐ Belts — no cracks, fraying, or glazing
- ☐ Hoses — no leaks, bulges, or cracks
- ☐ Wiring — secure, no exposed wires
- ☐ Air compressor — secure, no leaks
- ☐ Steering components tight
- ☐ No fluid leaks under vehicle

CAB / INTERIOR

- ☐ Mirrors — clean, adjusted, intact
- ☐ Windshield — clean, no cracks
- ☐ Wipers & washers operational
- ☐ Horn working
- ☐ Gauges & warning lights normal
- ☐ Seatbelt functional
- ☐ Steering wheel play within spec
- ☐ Heater / defroster working
- ☐ Fire extinguisher — charged, mounted
- ☐ Emergency triangles — 3 present
- ☐ Registration & insurance docs

LIGHTS — FRONT

- ☐ Headlights (high & low beam)
- ☐ Turn signals — left & right
- ☐ Hazard / 4-way flashers
- ☐ Clearance / marker lights
- ☐ ID lights (if equipped)

BRAKES

- ☐ Service brake operation
- ☐ Parking brake holds
- ☐ Air brake pressure builds (90–120 psi)
- ☐ Low-air warning activates (~60 psi)
- ☐ Air loss rate < 3 psi/min (single)
- ☐ Air loss rate < 4 psi/min (combo)
- ☐ Brake hoses — no leaks or damage
- ☐ Slack adjusters within spec
- ☐ Brake drums / rotors — no cracks

TIRES & WHEELS

- ☐ Tread depth ≥ 4/32" steer, 2/32" other
- ☐ Tire pressure adequate (all positions)
- ☐ No cuts, bulges, or tread separation
- ☐ Lug nuts tight — no missing
- ☐ Rims — no cracks or damage
- ☐ Valve caps present
- ☐ Mud flaps secure

LIGHTS — REAR & SIDE

- ☐ Tail lights
- ☐ Brake lights
- ☐ Turn signals — left & right
- ☐ Clearance / marker lights
- ☐ License plate light
- ☐ Reflectors / reflective tape intact

COUPLING DEVICES (COMBO)

- ☐ Fifth wheel — locked, no gap
- ☐ Kingpin — not damaged
- ☐ Apron / mounting bolts secure
- ☐ Glad hands — sealed, locked
- ☐ Air / electrical lines — no damage
- ☐ Safety chains / cables crossed

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SUSPENSION & FRAME

- ☐ Springs — no cracks or missing leaves
- ☐ Air bags — properly inflated
- ☐ Shock absorbers — no leaks
- ☐ U-bolts & mounting hardware tight
- ☐ Frame — no cracks or sagging
- ☐ Exhaust system — secure, no leaks
- ☐ Fuel tank — secure, cap tight, no leaks

CARGO SECUREMENT

- ☐ Load within weight limits
- ☐ Cargo properly distributed
- ☐ Tie-downs / chains adequate & tight
- ☐ Doors / latches / pins secure
- ☐ Tarps (if required) secure
- ☐ No shifting or overhanging cargo
- ☐ Placards correct (HazMat)

TRAILER (IF APPLICABLE)

- ☐ Landing gear fully raised
- ☐ Body / floor — no damage
- ☐ Doors open / close properly
- ☐ Roof — no damage or leaks
- ☐ Reefer unit operational (if equipped)
- ☐ ABS indicator light check

REMEMBER

- Complete BEFORE driving — every trip, every day
- Report ALL defects to carrier immediately
- Do NOT drive with critical safety defects
- Retain DVIRs for minimum 3 months
- Review prior day's DVIR before departure
- Carrier must certify repairs before next trip
- Out-of-service conditions = roadside violations

AIR BRAKE TEST — 7-STEP

1. **Build air pressure to governor cut-out**
   (typically 120–145 psi)
2. **Turn off engine, release brakes**
   Watch gauges for 1 minute
3. **Single vehicle: < 3 psi drop/min**
   Combination: < 4 psi drop/min
4. **Apply brakes fully — hold 1 min**
   < 4 psi/min (single) / < 6 psi/min (combo)
5. **Pump brake to drop pressure**
   Low-air warning at ~60 psi ✓
6. **Continue pumping below 40 psi**
   Parking brake should pop out ✓
7. **With air pressure up, tug-test**
   Service & parking brakes hold ✓

DEFECTS / NOTES

VEHICLE CONDITION SATISFACTORY:

- ☐ Yes — Vehicle safe to operate
- ☐ No — Defects noted above

Driver Signature _____

Printed Name _____ **Date** _____

Carrier / Mechanic Review Signature (if defects noted) _____

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