Pre-trip: tractor-trailer

A general checklist. Your state CDL manual, your company policy and your manufacturer's manual come first.

Date: _____ Truck: _____ Odometer: _____

Approach and under the truck

- ☐ Truck sits level, no lean to one side — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ No fresh puddles of oil, coolant, fuel or DEF under the truck — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Nothing hanging or dragging under the frame — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Area around the truck clear for pulling out — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Engine compartment

- ☐ Engine oil at the right level on the dipstick — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Coolant level in the sight glass or reservoir — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Power steering fluid level — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Belts tight, not cracked or frayed — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Hoses with no cracks, bulges or leaks — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Air compressor and its mounts secure — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ No leaks, loose wiring or damaged parts in the compartment — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Cab and start-up

- ☐ Gauges read normal after start-up: oil pressure, air, voltage, coolant temperature — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Air pressure builds within normal time and the warning lamp and buzzer go off — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Horns, wipers and washer fluid work — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Mirrors clean and adjusted, windshield free of cracks that block the view — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Seat belt latches and releases — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Emergency equipment on board: fire extinguisher charged, warning triangles, spare fuses if required — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Lights

- ☐ Headlights high and low beam — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Turn signals and four-way flashers front and rear — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Clearance and marker lights — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Brake lights — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Reflectors and conspicuity tape in place and clean — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Driver side

- ☐ Steer tire tread and sidewall, no bulges or cuts — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Lug nuts present, no rust trails or cracks around the studs — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Hub oil level and no leaks — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Suspension springs, mounts and shocks — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Fuel tank secure, cap on, no leaks — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Drive tires: tread, inflation, nothing between duals — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Coupling

- ☐ Fifth wheel locked: jaws closed around the kingpin, release arm in the locked position — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ No gap between the fifth wheel plate and the trailer apron — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Fifth wheel mounting bolts and slide locks secure — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Glad hands sealed and connected, air lines not chafing or tangled — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Electrical cord plugged in and secure — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- ☐ Landing gear fully raised, crank handle stowed — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Trailer

- [ ] Doors closed and latched, or cargo secured on an open deck — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Trailer frame and cross members with no cracks or damage — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Trailer tires, wheels and lugs — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Trailer suspension and tandem lock pins engaged — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Mud flaps in place — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Passenger side

- [ ] Steer and drive tires on this side — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Battery box secure, cables tight — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Exhaust system with no leaks or loose mounts — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Air tanks drained if required by your procedure — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Brakes test

- [ ] Parking brake holds the truck — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Trailer brakes hold with the tractor protection valve — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Service brake stops the truck straight with no pull — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Air leak-down check per your CDL manual's procedure — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Low air warning comes on at the point your manual describes — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Paperwork in the cab

- [ ] Driver license and medical card — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Registration and proof of insurance — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Periodic inspection proof — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Hours of service records or ELD in-cab materials — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Shipping papers for the load — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]
- [ ] Last DVIR reviewed and signed if repairs were made — Defect [ ] N/A [ ]

Defects and notes: _____

Signature: _____