

Department of Motor Vehicles

Vehicle Inspection Study Guide

COACH/TRANSIT BUS

During the actual tests, you will be expected to point to or touch each of the parts of your vehicle listed below. Name the part and explain what damage or problems you might find. The types of damages or problems are listed below and in the vehicle inspection section in the CDL Manual.

Note: All axles touching the ground on one side of the vehicle must be inspected.

This study guide cannot be used during the actual pre-trip inspection portion of the skills test.

Front of Vehicle

Lights Check for proper color/clean lenses, cracks, missing screws and condensation, also check for function, left/right turn signals, headlights, high/low beam and four-way flashers.

Engine Compartment

Oil Level Check by pulling out the dip stick, wiping it and reinserting it, then pull out to look at the low and full marks to determine the level.

Coolant Level Observe the site glass or line markings for proper level. If not equipped, explain removing radiator cap for level. (**Do not remove cap.**)

Power Steering Fluid Observe the sight glass or line markings for proper level. If not equipped, open the cap and check for proper level.

Water Pump Check for missing/loose bolts, cracks, proper belt tension, cracked or frayed belts and coolant leaks.

Alternator Check for missing/loose bolts, cracks, proper belt tension, cracked or frayed belts, and cracked, burnt or loose wires.

Air Compressor Check for missing/loose bolts. Check belts for tension, cracked or frayed lines and leaks.

Leaks Look under the engine compartment for coolant, power steering, transmission and oil leaks.

Inside the Vehicle

(start engine)

Clutch/Gearshift If standard, check for excessive play in clutch no more than two inches. Check the gear ranges to ensure they engage. Check the boot for holes and dry rot. If automatic, check gear shift for ranges.

Air Pressure Gauge Check for cracks and cleanliness. Air pressure should build to a minimum of 100 PSI in both the primary and secondary system.

Inside Vehicle

(continued)

Oil Pressure Gauge

Check the gauge for cracks and cleanliness. Oil pressure should come up to normal within seconds after the engine is started. If no gauge, identify the location of the warning light that indicates a system failure.

Ammeter/Voltmeter

Check the gauge for cracks and cleanliness. Amps/Volts should come up to normal within seconds after the engine is started. If no gauge, identify the location of the warning light that indicates a system failure.

Air Brake

Build air pressure up to 100-120 PSI. Cut engine off and release all brakes, press hard on the foot brake and hold down for one minute, air pressure should not drop over three PSI. Turn ignition key on and continue with foot brake pumping air pressure down. At around 60 PSI the "Low Air" buzzer should sound and/or a warning light should appear. Keep pumping air down with foot brake, and at about 40 PSI, the parking brake knob should pop out.

Steering Play

Check steering wheel play of no more than ten degrees (approximately two inches of movement at the rim of a 20-inch steering wheel).

Parking Brake

Set the parking brake, put the vehicle in low gear and gently release your foot from the brake pedal, (and clutch if equipped) until you feel the vehicle pulling against the brake. The vehicle should not move.

Mirrors/Windshield

Check mirrors for proper adjustment. Check the windshield for cracks, cleanliness and illegal stickers.

Wipers

Check the wipers for looseness, dry rot and function.

Lighting Indicators

Check the following for function: panel light, high/low beam indicator, left and right turn signal indicators and four-way flasher indicator.

Horns

Check both the highway and city horns for proper function.

Heater/Defroster

Check both the defroster and heater fans for proper function.

Safety/Emergency Equipment

Ensure working fire extinguisher-properly charged and mounted, spare electrical fuses (unless equipped with circuit breakers), three reflective triangles.

**Front Suspension/
Air Brakes**

Listen for air leaks in the brakes and in the suspension.

Front Wheels

- Rims Check the rims for bends, cracks and non-factory welds.
- Hub Seal Check the hub oil seal for missing bolts, cracks, leaks and proper level (if equipped with site glass).
- Tire Check the tire for at least 4/32" tread depth in the major grooves. Check for cuts, bulges and proper air pressure using an air gauge. Cannot have recaps or retreads.
- Lug Nuts Check the lug nuts for missing, loose nuts and rust around them.

Driver/Fuel Area

- Door/Window Check the door for cracked or bent hinges and that it functions properly.
- Mirrors Check the mirrors for cracks, cleanliness and missing/loose bolts/nuts.
- Fuel Area Check cap is tight and no fuel leaks.

Rear of Vehicle

- Rear Wheels Check the rear wheels the same as the front with the exception of the tire depth. It should be 2/32" in the major grooves. Check the space between the dual tires. Tires should not be touching and no sign of debris. If equipped with spacers, they should not be bent, cracked or non-factory welds.

**Rear Suspension/
Air Brakes**

Same as the front.

- Lights Check for proper color and clean lenses/reflectors, cracks, missing screws and condensation. Also check for function of left/right turn signals, brake lights, reverse lights and four way flashers.

- Passenger Entry Steps and handrails secure, no missing hardware, no worn matting, door opens and closes correctly.

- Seating Check that all seats are secure with no missing hardware.

- Emergency Exits Check the function of all exits both inside and out including all warning devices.

- Baggage Compartments (If equipped) Check that doors open and close correctly and are secure with no missing hardware.