



Performing Pre- and Post-Trip Vehicle Inspections

Regular inspections are required by the DOT to ensure your vehicle is in good condition and reduce the chance of an accident or a breakdown. The following guidelines are for pre- and post-trip inspections. Check your company's procedures for required monthly, annual, and other inspections applicable to your particular vehicles.

PREPARING FOR INSPECTIONS:

- Select a location** — Find a good location to park the vehicle away from people, other vehicles, low-hanging wires or tree limbs, and any other potential hazard.
- Prepare the vehicle** — Remove the keys from the ignition, set the parking brake, and use wheel stops* correctly to prevent movement.
- Select the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and have a clean cloth handy to wipe lights and reflectors, along with a tire pressure gauge.

CONDUCTING PRE-TRIP INSPECTIONS:

Pre-trip inspections should be conducted at the beginning of the work day. They require:

- A vehicle walk-around** — Check oil level, belts, hoses, tires, lights, and gauges to make sure no changes have occurred since the last inspection.
- A review of the last Driver Vehicle Inspection Report (DVIR)** — Review the last DVIR and sign the report only if no problems were noted. By signing the report, you acknowledge that you've read the report and all necessary repairs have been made.

CHECKING FOR ISSUES ON-ROAD:

- Keep your eye on all gauges for trouble signs, and stay tuned to changes in your vehicle's performance.
- Inspect your cargo tank discharge system and emergency discharge controls before transferring propane.

CONDUCTING POST-TRIP INSPECTIONS:

Follow company and DOT requirements and prepare a DVIR at the end of the work day. Your post-trip inspection should cover the operation and condition of:

- Service brakes, including trailer brake connections and parking brake
- Steering mechanism
- Windshield wiper(s)
- Horn
- Coupling devices
- Lighting devices and reflectors
- Tires, wheels, and rims
- Rear-vision mirror(s)
- Emergency equipment, including fire extinguisher, reflective triangles, and electrical fuses

Conduct your pre- and post-trip inspections the same way every day. Record any deficiencies or defects on the DVIR. Any issue should be addressed immediately.

*The 2014 edition of NFPA 58 has replaced the term "wheel chocks" with "wheel stops."

Source: *Propane Delivery Operations and Cylinder Delivery* (PERC)

For more information regarding vehicle inspection, visit propanesafety.com.

Discussion Topics

1. Why is it important to inspect your vehicle before and after each use?
2. Why is it important to thoroughly complete a DVIR at the end of each work day?

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Have a vehicle available and have participants conduct a pre- and a post-trip inspection. Encourage questions and discuss issues.

October 2014 Test

Performing Vehicle Inspections

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: Read and answer each of the following questions. When complete, grade the test and review incorrect answers so each employee is “armed” with the correct answers before they leave the training.

1. The 2014 edition of NFPA 58 has replaced the term “wheel chocks” with
 - a). wheel sets
 - b). wheel stops
 - c). wheel security
 - d). wheel placement

2. DOT requires each driver to perform _____ at the beginning of each shift to ensure that the vehicle is in safe operating condition:
 - a). a pre-trip inspection
 - b). a drug and alcohol test
 - c). an internal cargo tank inspection
 - d). a post-trip inspection

3. The _____ helps CTMV drivers conduct pre and post trip inspections by listing everything that must be inspected.
 - a). Vehicle Service Report
 - b). Driver Vehicle Inspection Report
 - c). Inspection Report
 - d). Bobtail Report

4. Preparing for an inspection, you should remove the keys from the ignition, set the brakes and use the wheel stops correctly to prevent movement.
 - a). True
 - b). False

5. DOT requires the driver to prepare a written DVIR at the end of each day.
 - a). True
 - b). False

October 2014

Answers

1.B

2.A

3.B

4.A

5.A