



Commercial Driver Safety Checklist

WORK READY ESSENTIALS- Equipping Workers for Success

COMMERCIAL DRIVER SAFETY CHECKLIST

Driver Information

Driver Name: _____ Employee ID: _____

Date: _____ Shift: _____ Route: _____

Vehicle Unit #: _____ Odometer Start: _____

Weather Conditions: _____ Route Distance: _____

1. Pre-Departure Driver Readiness

Personal Health & Fitness

- ☐ Adequate rest - Minimum 8 hours sleep before shift
- ☐ Physical fitness - Alert, no illness or medical issues affecting driving ability
- ☐ Medication check - No impairing prescription medications
- ☐ Vision clarity - Glasses/contacts if required, clear eyesight
- ☐ Substance-free - No alcohol or drugs in system
- ☐ Mental alertness - Focused, no personal distractions

Required Documentation

- ☐ Valid Commercial Driver's License with appropriate endorsements
- ☐ Medical certificate current and carried
- ☐ Vehicle registration and insurance documents accessible
- ☐ Trip manifest and delivery schedules reviewed

Work Ready Essentials | Trusted by Safety Leaders Nationwide

One Box, Maximum Impact | www.workreadyessentials.com



Commercial Driver Safety Checklist

WORK READY ESSENTIALS- Equipping Workers for Success

- ☐ Route plan mapped with hazard awareness
- ☐ Emergency contact information readily available

2. Personal Protective Equipment & Safety Gear

Required PPE

- ☐ High-visibility vest worn when outside vehicle
- ☐ Safety boots with slip-resistant soles
- ☐ Hard hat available (construction/industrial sites)
- ☐ Safety gloves for load handling
- ☐ Eye protection (safety glasses) when required
- ☐ Hearing protection for high-noise environments

Emergency Safety Equipment

- ☐ First aid kit complete and accessible
- ☐ Fire extinguisher charged and current inspection
- ☐ Emergency triangles - minimum 3 units in good condition
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ Emergency communication device (cell phone, radio)
- ☐ Basic tool kit for minor roadside repairs

3. Vehicle Safety Systems Check

Brake System Verification

- ☐ Service brakes - Firm pedal, adequate stopping power
- ☐ Parking brake - Holds vehicle securely on grade
- ☐ Air pressure - Builds to proper PSI (air brake systems)

Work Ready Essentials | Trusted by Safety Leaders Nationwide

One Box, Maximum Impact | www.workreadyessentials.com



Commercial Driver Safety Checklist

WORK READY ESSENTIALS- Equipping Workers for Success

- ☐ Brake adjustment - No excessive travel or slack
- ☐ Warning systems - Low air pressure alarms functional

Steering & Control Systems

- ☐ Steering responsiveness - No excessive play or binding
- ☐ Power steering fluid - Adequate level, no leaks
- ☐ Steering wheel - Secure, proper free play limits
- ☐ Vehicle tracking - Travels straight when steering centered

4. Visibility & Lighting Safety

Lighting System Function

- ☐ Headlights - Low and high beam operational
- ☐ Tail lights - All positions working
- ☐ Brake lights - All bulbs functional
- ☐ Turn signals - Front and rear operational both sides
- ☐ Hazard flashers - All positions working
- ☐ Clearance lights - Operational (if equipped)

Vision Clarity

- ☐ Windshield - Clean, no obstructions or damage affecting visibility
- ☐ Windows - Clean, clear view in all directions
- ☐ Mirrors - Clean, properly adjusted, secure mounting
- ☐ Windshield wipers - Functional, good blade condition
- ☐ Defroster/heater - Operational for window clearing

5. Load & Cargo Safety

Work Ready Essentials | Trusted by Safety Leaders Nationwide

One Box, Maximum Impact | www.workreadyessentials.com



Commercial Driver Safety Checklist

WORK READY ESSENTIALS- Equipping Workers for Success

Load Securement

- ☐ Cargo properly secured - Appropriate tie-downs and restraints
- ☐ Load distribution - Weight evenly distributed, within axle limits
- ☐ Tie-down inspection - Adequate working load limits, no damage
- ☐ Load covering - Properly secured (if required)
- ☐ Cargo doors - Secure latching, no damage affecting closure

Weight Compliance

- ☐ Gross vehicle weight - Within legal limits
- ☐ Axle weights - Properly distributed
- ☐ Permits - Oversize/overweight permits current (if applicable)

6. Defensive Driving Practices

Speed & Following Distance

- ☐ Speed awareness - Drive according to conditions, not just limits
- ☐ Following distance - Minimum 4-second rule, more in poor conditions
- ☐ Curve speed - Reduce speed appropriately for turns
- ☐ Construction zones - Reduced speed, increased awareness

Hazard Recognition

- ☐ Weather conditions - Adjust driving for rain, snow, ice, wind
- ☐ Traffic patterns - Anticipate congestion, lane changes
- ☐ Pedestrian areas - Extra caution near schools, crossings
- ☐ Other vehicles - Watch for erratic drivers, motorcycles, cyclists
- ☐ Road conditions - Awareness of construction, potholes, debris

Work Ready Essentials | Trusted by Safety Leaders Nationwide

One Box, Maximum Impact | www.workreadyessentials.com



Commercial Driver Safety Checklist

WORK READY ESSENTIALS- Equipping Workers for Success

7. Communication & Technology Safety

Communication Protocols

- ☐ Hands-free devices - Use only hands-free communication while driving
- ☐ Route updates - Regular check-ins with dispatch
- ☐ Traffic updates - Monitor road conditions and alternate routes
- ☐ Emergency procedures - Know protocols for accidents/breakdowns

Technology Use

- ☐ GPS operation - Set route before departure, voice guidance only
- ☐ Electronic logging - ELD properly functioning and updated
- ☐ Mobile devices - Secured, not accessible while driving

8. Rest & Fatigue Management

Hours of Service Compliance

- ☐ Duty time monitoring - Track driving and on-duty hours
- ☐ Required breaks - 30-minute break every 8 hours
- ☐ Daily limits - Maximum 11 hours driving, 14 hours on-duty
- ☐ Weekly limits - 60/70-hour weekly maximums

Fatigue Prevention

- ☐ Regular breaks - Stop every 2 hours or 100 miles
- ☐ Hydration - Adequate water intake throughout shift
- ☐ Nutrition - Healthy meals, avoid heavy foods that cause drowsiness
- ☐ Exercise - Stretch and walk during breaks
- ☐ Sleep quality - Proper rest environment, consistent sleep schedule

Work Ready Essentials | Trusted by Safety Leaders Nationwide

One Box, Maximum Impact | www.workreadyessentials.com



Commercial Driver Safety Checklist

WORK READY ESSENTIALS- Equipping Workers for Success

9. Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Response Plan

- ☐ Accident procedures - Know steps for collision response
- ☐ Breakdown protocol - Safe vehicle positioning, hazard marking
- ☐ Medical emergency - First aid knowledge, emergency contacts
- ☐ Hazardous spills - Appropriate response for cargo type
- ☐ Weather emergencies - Severe weather response procedures

Emergency Equipment Check

- ☐ Emergency kit - Flares, triangles, first aid, tools
- ☐ Communication - Cell phone charged, emergency numbers programmed
- ☐ Survival supplies - Water, food, blankets for extended delays

10. Post-Trip Safety Verification

End-of-Shift Documentation

- ☐ Vehicle condition - Note any new defects or issues discovered
- ☐ Mileage recorded - Accurate odometer reading
- ☐ Fuel level - Document fuel consumption and efficiency
- ☐ Load completion - All deliveries completed satisfactorily
- ☐ Incident reporting - Any safety issues or near-misses documented

Safety Violations or Concerns Identified

List any safety issues discovered during checklist completion:



Commercial Driver Safety Checklist

WORK READY ESSENTIALS- Equipping Workers for Success

Corrective actions taken:

- ☐ Issue resolved before operation
- ☐ Vehicle removed from service
- ☐ Supervisor notified
- ☐ Maintenance requested

Driver Safety Certification

I certify that I have completed this safety checklist and am prepared to operate this commercial vehicle safely, or have reported all safety concerns identified above:

Driver Signature: _____ Date: _____

Time: _____ Supervisor Review (if required): _____

Safety Reminders:

- Safety first - Never compromise safety for schedule demands
- Report all hazards - Communication prevents accidents
- Stay current - Keep up with safety training and regulations
- Personal responsibility - Each driver accountable for safe operations

Document Control:

- Document Version: 1.0
- Last Updated: September 2025
- Compliant with: Provincial/Federal Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulations
- Approved By: Work Ready Essentials Safety Team

Work Ready Essentials | Trusted by Safety Leaders Nationwide

One Box, Maximum Impact | www.workreadyessentials.com



Commercial Driver Safety Checklist

WORK READY ESSENTIALS- Equipping Workers for Success

Work Ready Essentials | Trusted by Safety Leaders Nationwide

One Box, Maximum Impact | www.workreadyessentials.com