



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

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- 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)

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- 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

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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



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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

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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:



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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:

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