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## SAMPLE: Commercial Vehicle Pre-Trip Inspection Training Guide

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Study this material alongside a **Free Pre-Trip Inspection Video** online:  
<http://gsfschools.com/preTripVideo>

The following skills will be tested during your DMV drive test:

1. Inspection: air brakes, in-cab inspection, and walk-around  
**NOTE: This sample training guide covers the pre-trip air brakes inspection only. The complete guide provides all the essential and critical details required to pass the DMV examination. Order online (<http://gsfschools.com>) or call us at (213) 745-6022.**
2. Yard backing skills: straight backing, alley docking, parallel parking.
3. Road skills: starting and stopping, gear selection, turns, lane changes, commercial vehicle sign observance, hill parking and starting, freeway merging and exiting, defensive driving, and speed control.



# AIR BRAKE SYSTEM INSPECTION

## ① APPLIED PRESSURE TEST

To test the rate of air leakage. **Procedure:** Start the engine and build air pressure to maximum capacity, look at gauge and point out exactly where it cuts out (needles no longer raise). Place transmission in low gear, shut engine off (PLEASE NOTE: USE KILL SWITCH ONLY, DO NOT TURN IGNITION OFF) and release all the brakes (push valves **IN** for trailer=**RED** and for truck=**YELLOW**) wait for the needles to stabilize. Step on the brake pedal all the way down and hold it for **1 minute** (60 seconds). In **1 minute** during the applied pressure test, a combination vehicle should not lose more than **4 PSI**. When minute is over, **point out whether you lost any air**.

## ② LOW AIR WARNING TEST

Make sure warning system is operating. **Procedure:** pump the brake pedal and continue to lose air pressure until you reach **60 PSI**. When the system reaches **60 PSI** an alarm should activate (either a light, buzzard or a combination of both) and lets you know air pressure is **too low**. If this were to happen when you were on the road, you would pull the truck over in a safe place and make sure the system was checked by a mechanic before continuing on your trip. In no truck should the alarm activate at a rate lower than **55 PSI**.

## ③ EMERGENCY POP OUT TEST

Make sure brakes activate automatically when pressure is nearly all gone. **Procedure:** Continue pumping the brake pedal rapidly until you reach air pressure within a range of **20 to 40 PSI**, tractor protection valve and emergency spring brake valve should **pop out** automatically. Make sure **both** valves pop out.

## ④ GOVERNOR CUT OUT TEST

When the governor of the compressor stops pumping air into the tanks (cut-out). **Procedure:** Place vehicle in neutral, start the engine, and build pressure to maximum capacity (you have reached maximum capacity when needles are no longer rising) point out at what pressure it is **cutting out** (vehicle should cut out close to or at **120 PSI**). Cut-out should never be higher than **130 PSI** on any truck.

## ⑤ GOVERNOR CUT IN TEST

When the governor of the compressor starts pumping air back into the tanks (cut-in). **Procedure:** With the engine running, step on the brake pedal all the way down and then release, wait for 5 seconds and check to see if needle on the air gauge begins to climb back up, if there is no change, repeat same procedure. Once you see the needle begin to raise that is the cut-in (vehicle should cut in between **90 to 95 PSI**), point out **exactly** where the cut-in occurred. The cut-in should never occur at a rate lower than **85 PSI**. The cut-in point depends on the type of truck and the manufacturer.

## ⑥ BRAKES TEST

Make sure all brakes are working. **Procedure:** With the engine running, apply the tractor parking brake=**yellow** valve and release the trailer emergency brake=**red** valve, place transmission in low gear and gently release clutch to pull on brake, vehicle should not move. Engage clutch again, apply the trailer emergency brake=**red** and release tractor parking brake=**yellow**, gently release clutch to pull on brake, vehicle should not move. Engage clutch, apply the hand valve/trailer service brake and release trailer emergency brake=**red**, gently release clutch to pull on brake, vehicle should not move. Engage clutch, apply the tractor service brake (foot brake) and release hand valve/trailer service brake, gently release clutch to pull on brake, vehicle should not move.

**\*\*\*STUDY THE STEPS ABOVE UNTIL YOU CAN:**

**A) Name the step, B) Provide purpose for the step, and C) Explain and perform the procedure.**



## ORDER THE COMPLETE TRAINING GUIDE

The complete guide helps you learn all the essential parts of the pre-trip inspection that the DMV requires you to know. Order the complete commercial vehicle pre-trip inspection training guide online (<http://gsfschools.com>) or by calling us at (213) 745-6022.

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### About GSF Driving & Truck Training School

GSF offers professional driver training, including free training online at <http://gsfschools.com>.

GSF provides truck, bus, pick-up & delivery van, and auto driver training, and traffic school instruction.

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