



Vehicle walk round checks

'The driver of the vehicle is responsible for the condition of the vehicle when it is in use on the road.'

'Drivers must report any defects or symptoms of defects that could prevent the safe operation of the vehicle. In addition to daily checks drivers must monitor the roadworthiness of the vehicle when being driven and be alert to any indication that the vehicle is developing a fault (i.e. warning lights, exhaust emitting too much smoke, vibrations, or other symptoms'

VOSA Guide to Maintaining Road Worthiness 2009

Vehicles must be inspected and the inspection recorded, **before** commencing use of any vehicle.

Allocate sufficient time and have a routine circle of inspection. **Never assume, or be complacent.**

The tachograph chart should be on crossed hammers when carrying out the vehicle check, which is classified as 'other duty'.

What to Check

Cab Internal

- **Drivers seat**, operation and security
- **Seat belt operation** (i.e. not frayed)
- **View from cab** – mirrors correctly set, nothing obstructing vision ahead (sweep wipers)
- **All electrical switches** – dashboard warning lights (ABS /full head lamp/parking brake)
- **Parking/foot brake operation**
- **ABS warning lamp**
- **Pedal rubbers**
- **Horn working**
- **Steering** – for excessive play
- **Windscreen wipers** – work continually when switched on
Blades not deteriorated
- Start engine to build pressure – listen for air leaks
- Check exhaust for leaks/blowing, emission of excessive amounts of smoke

Cab External

- Operators licence present and validity
- Tax disc present and validity
- Any sign of leaks
- Fluid level – oil/coolant/screen wash
- Mirrors secure
- Rips/tears in curtain

Tyres

- Walls
- Tread (1mm – all round – $\frac{3}{4}$ of width)
- Inflation (do not forget inners)
- No deep cuts in sidewall
- No cord visible anywhere on tyre

Wheels

- Nuts – none missing
- Rim (for damage)
- Check wheel nut indicators if used
- Wheel looseness – rust marks
- Broken fittings



Fuel/oil Leaks

- With engine on check for leaks of fuel/oil
- Check fuel filler cap is properly located
- If leaks are detected that are not fuel or oil, trace the cause (i.e. power steering fluid/water)

Spray suspension

- Fitted (where required)
- Stiff and secure
- Undamaged and not clogged with mud or debris

Lights

- Clean and working
- Do not forget marker lights
- Ask for assistance if possible
- Use reflective surface to check brake lights
- All lenses are present, clean and of correct colour

Number plate

- Secure
- Correct
- Clean

Brakes

- Service brake operates both tractor and trailer
- Parking brake for tractor operational (Listen for air releasing from tractor and trailer or ask a colleague to watch the trailer brakes operate as you press the pedal)

Auxiliary equipment, **if fitted** – ie security of fire extinguisher

Security of load

- Load restraint adequacy
- Damage
- Appearance
Straps/chains/ropes are in good condition

Brake Lines

- Free from debris and located properly
- No leaks, bulging, kinking, corrosion, stretching or general damage/wear to any break line

Fifth wheel

- Safety Bar
- Clearance

Markers

- In place and securely fastened
- No damage
- Not obscured by dirt of the correct type and clearly visible

Reflectors

- Not obscured
- None missing
- Not broken or the wrong colour

Security of body/wings

- Fastening devices - present, secure and operational
- Cab/trailer doors are secure when closed
- No body panels are loose or in danger of falling off
- No landing legs, where fitted, are likely to fall from vehicle.

Battery security/condition

- Battery held securely by correct means
- Battery is not leaking (must be replaced if leaking)

Sign, date and time the walk round document.

Adopt a nil defect policy. Ensure that any rectified defect is recorded on defect report – date, time, name in print, signature.