

# DOT vehicle inspection checklist

## Brake system

- Service brakes
- Parking brake system
- Brake drums or rotors
- Brake hose
- Brake tubing
- Low-pressure warning device
- Tractor protection valve
- Air compressor
- Electric brakes
- Hydraulic brakes
- Vacuum systems

## Exhaust system

- Any exhaust system leaking at a point in front of or below the driver or sleeper compartment.
- A bus exhaust system leaking or emitting into the atmosphere in violation of standards (1), (2), or (3).
- No part of a motor vehicle's exhaust system should be positioned in a way that could burn, char, or damage the electrical wiring, fuel supply, or any combustible part of the vehicle.

## Steering mechanism

- Steering wheel free play
- Steering column
- Front axle beam and all steering components other than steering column
- Steering gear box
- Pitman arm
- Power steering
- Ball and socket joints
- Tie rods and drag links
- Nuts
- Steering system

## Coupling devices

- Fifth wheels
- Pintle hooks
- Drawbar/towbar eye
- Drawbar/towbar tongue
- Safety devices
- Saddle-mounts

## Safe loading

- Part(s) of the vehicle or condition of loading such that the spare tire or any part of the load or dunnage can fall onto the roadway.
- Protection against shifting cargo

## Suspension

- Any U-bolt(s), spring hanger(s) or other axle positioning part(s) cracked, broken, loose or missing, resulting in shifting of an axle from its normal position.
- Spring assembly
- Torque, radius or tracking components

## Fuel system

- Visible leak
- Fuel tank filler cap missing
- Fuel tank securely attached

## Tires, wheels, and rims

- Tires on any steering axle of a power unit
- All other tires
- Lock or side ring
- Wheels and rims
- Fasteners
- Welds

## Windshield glazing

- Requirements and exceptions as stated pertaining to any crack, discoloration or vision-reducing matter.

## Lighting devices

- All lighting devices and reflectors required by Section 393 shall be operable.

## Frame

- Frame members
- Tire and wheel clearance
- Adjustable axle assemblies (sliding subframes)

## Windshield wipers

- Any power unit that has an inoperative wiper or missing or damaged parts that render it ineffective.