

# Vehicle inspection — Driver handout #1

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A commercial driver needs to begin each shift with a thorough pretrip and end each shift with a thorough post-trip. Doing a pretrip and post-trip vehicle inspection is not only the right thing to do from a safety standpoint; they are required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), and they are an important part of your job as a professional driver.

The FMCSRs require that no commercial vehicle be driven unless the driver is satisfied that the required parts and accessories are in good working order. In addition, you must make sure that all emergency equipment is present and operating correctly, and that your vehicle is safely loaded. The following three types of vehicle inspections are required:

1. Pretrip
2. On-the-road
3. Post-trip

## A 7-step pretrip inspection method

Do your pretrip the same way every time, and you'll be less likely to forget something. By following a prescribed method, you are more likely to meet federal regulations.

1. Vehicle overview
2. Engine compartment
3. Inside the cab
4. Check lights
5. Check signal lights
6. Walk-around inspection
  - Left front
  - Front
  - Right side
  - Rear
  - Left rear and side
  - Coupling system
7. Final brake system check