

# HGV Drivers' Walk Around Check

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## Mirrors and Glass

- Check all mirrors that should be there
- Are there
  - Are aligned properly
  - Are securely mounted
- Check that your view of the road (especially in the swept area of the windscreen viewed from the drivers seat) isn't obscured by:
- Damaged/discoloured glass
  - Obstructions (stickers etc.)
- Check that the side windows are not damaged or discoloured in a way that obscures your view to a mirror

## Lights and Indicators

- Check that all lights and indicators work correctly in all their modes of operation (including 'hazard')
- Check that all lenses are present, secure and undamaged, not dirty and are of the correct colour
- Check that stop lamps come on when the service brake is applied and go out when released
- Check that marker lights are present and working (where applicable)
- Check that all dashboard warning lamps work correctly (e.g. the ABS warning lamp, headlamp, main beam warning lamp, parking break warning lamp)

## Brakes

- Check that the service brake operates both the tractor and trailer (where applicable) brakes
  - Check that the parking brake for the tractor is operational
- (these checks can be done by listening for the air releasing from the tractor and the trailer or by asking a colleague to watch the trailer brakes operating as you press the pedal)*
- Check that the service brake pedal doesn't have excessive side play or missing, loose or incomplete anti-slip provision
  - Check that the trailer parking brake works by operating it as you do the walk around
  - Check that air pressure gauges and low air pressure warning are working correctly

## Steering

- Check the steering for excessive play
- Check for power steering fluid leaks under vehicle
- When checking for leaks underneath the vehicle, visually check the major steering components to ensure that they are present, secure and undamaged

## Brake Lines

- Check that couplings are free from debris and located properly and that the safety locking devices are present, and the coupling is secure
- Check that there are no leaks from the lines themselves
- Check that there is no bulging, kinking, corrosion, stretching, chafing or general damage to any brake lines
- *If the engine is left running until pressure has built up after the initial brake test, it will be easier to hear leaks as the rest of the walk around test is carried out*

## First Aid Kit

- Check the first aid kit is present and complete (if applicable)
- Check the first aid kit is in good condition
- Check the first aid kit is easily accessible

## Reflectors

- Check that the reflectors are not:
- Obscured; missing; broken or of the wrong colour

## Excessive Engine Exhaust Smoke

- Check that the exhaust doesn't emit excessive amounts of smoke

## Horn

- Check that horn works correctly when control is operated

## Security of Load

- Check that any load is secured adequately
- Check that any container has an effective secondary locking device fitted

## Battery (if easily accessible)

- Check that battery is held securely in place by the correct means, not by its cables
- Check that battery is not leaking and caps are fitted

## Spray Suppression

- Check that the spray suppression flaps are:
- Fitted (where required); rigid and secure; undamaged and not clogged with mud or debris

## Fire Extinguisher

- Check that the fire extinguisher is easily accessible
- Check that the fire extinguisher is in a good condition and not discharged

## Markers

- Check that the marker boards/conspicuity markings are:
- Present if the type of vehicle requires them
  - Not obscured by dirt or other objects
  - Securely fastened
  - Of the correct type
  - Clearly visible

## Security of Body/Wings

- Check that all fastening devices are present, complete, secure and in working order
- Check that cab doors and trailer doors are secure when closed
- Check that no body parts on tractor unit or trailer are loose and in danger of falling off
- Check that no landing leg component, where fitted, is likely to fall from the vehicle.

## Other Equipment

- Check that the driver's seat correctly adjusted to ensure ease of operation of all necessary hand and foot controls
- Check all driving controls, seat & safety belt (if fitted)
- Check that warning triangles are present
- Check that number plates are in place, clean and in a good condition

## Windscreen Wipers & Washers

- Wipers work correctly when switched on and cover the full swept area of the screen
- Wiper blades are not so deteriorated that they don't clear the screen effectively when used with washers
- Washers point at screen and are operational (where required)

## Electrical Connections

- Check that all visible wiring is insulated and is not in a position where it is likely to get chafed
- Check that all electric switches operate their components correctly
- Check that electrical plugs are correctly located and secured in the sockets

## Fuel/Oil Levels and Leaks

- Check fuel, engine oil, coolant, windscreen washer and (if fitted) urea levels
  - Check fuel filler cap and seal are properly located
- With engine on:**
- Check underneath vehicle for any leaks of fuel/oil
  - Check if leaks are detected that aren't fuel or oil, trace the cause (i.e. power steering fluid, water etc.)

## Coupling Security

- Check that the trailer (if applicable) is located correctly in the fifth wheel
- Check that the security bar is in the correct position for its use and any locking devices are in good condition and correctly deployed

## Tyres and Wheel Fixing

- Check as much of each tyre/wheel as you can see to ensure that:
- There is a minimum tread depth of 1mm
  - There is sufficient inflation of each tyre
  - There are no deep cuts or bulges in the sidewall
  - There are no cord visible anywhere on tyre
  - There are no missing or insecure wheel nuts
  - Wheel nut indicators correctly aligned (if fitted)
  - Road wheel nuts all in place, correctly fitted &

