

STS Truck Services DOT Inspection Checklist

Use this checklist as a practical readiness guide before an annual DOT inspection. This does not replace a qualified inspection, but it helps owners, drivers, and fleet managers spot common issues before they become downtime.

Brake System

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air leaks or slow air pressure build-up | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brake chambers, hoses, and fittings | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brake lining and drum condition | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slack adjuster condition and adjustment concerns | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ABS warning lights or visible ABS wiring damage | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking brake operation | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contaminated, cracked, or damaged brake components | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uneven braking concerns reported by the driver | Notes: _____ |

Tires, Wheels & Hubs

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tread depth and uneven tire wear | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sidewall cuts, bulges, exposed cord, or weather cracking | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loose, missing, damaged, or mismatched lug nuts | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheel seal leaks or visible hub oil concerns | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cracked wheels, rim damage, or impact damage | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improper tire inflation or obvious tire damage | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual tires touching or debris between duals | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tires marked Not for Highway Use | Notes: _____ |

Lights, Electrical & Visibility

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and marker lights | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trailer lights and connector operation | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reflectors and conspicuity tape condition | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wiring damage, loose connections, or corrosion | Notes: _____ |

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Windshield condition and wiper operation | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Horn, mirrors, and visibility-related equipment | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dash warning lights that need diagnosis | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Battery box and cable condition | Notes: _____ |

Steering, Suspension & Undercarriage

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Steering play, loose components, or worn linkage | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | King pins, tie rods, drag links, and steering gear concerns | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring damage, broken leaves, or shifting components | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Airbags, shocks, hangers, bushings, and torque rods | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Frame damage, cracks, or visible structural concerns | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Driveline, carrier bearing, and U-joint condition | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loose, missing, or damaged fasteners | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unusual noises, vibration, or handling concerns | Notes: _____ |

Leaks, Fluids & Engine Area

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Oil, coolant, fuel, DEF, hydraulic, or air leaks | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Coolant hoses, belts, clamps, and visible wear | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exhaust leaks, damaged mounts, or loose components | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aftertreatment warning lights or visible DPF/SCR concerns | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fuel system leaks or damaged lines | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Battery corrosion or unsecured components | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Low fluid levels or contamination concerns | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visible damage that could affect safe operation | Notes: _____ |

Trailer & Combination Unit Items

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trailer brakes, air lines, glad hands, and ABS light | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Landing gear operation and structural condition | Notes: _____ |

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kingpin, fifth wheel, pintle hook, or coupling device concerns | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Safety chains, breakaway system, and securement items | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Doors, hinges, latches, ramps, and deck condition | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trailer suspension, tires, lights, and reflectors | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Load securement components and visible damage | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Proper identification of trailer inspection documentation | Notes: _____ |

Documentation & Compliance Readiness

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Current annual inspection documentation | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Inspection date shown on sticker, decal, or report | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Driver knows where inspection documentation is located | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Registration and required vehicle documents are available | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | DOT number and company markings are legible when required | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fire extinguisher and emergency triangles are present when applicable | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Combination units are clearly identified in documentation | Notes: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Prior defects or repair recommendations have been reviewed | Notes: _____ |

Reminder: A checklist helps you prepare. Annual DOT inspections should be completed by a qualified inspector who can evaluate the vehicle against applicable inspection standards and document results properly.