

NSC DAILY VEHICLE TRIP INSPECTION

GOALS OF THE STANDARD

The daily vehicle trip inspection standard is intended to ensure early identification of vehicle problems and defects, and to prevent the operation of vehicles with conditions that are likely to cause or contribute to a collision or vehicle breakdown.

INTRODUCTION

Daily vehicle trip inspection is a continuous process designed to protect drivers and alert carriers to mechanical problems. The general objective of daily vehicle trip inspections is to promote an improved level of safety and compliance in commercial vehicles operating on the highway.

APPLICATION

All motor carriers and drivers operating commercial vehicles as defined in the NSC.

Some jurisdictions may exempt certain types of vehicles from the requirements of this standard. To determine whether any specific vehicle is exempted, please contact the appropriate jurisdiction in which travel is intended.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

Commercial Vehicle: (As defined in NSC) A truck, tractor or trailer or combination thereof exceeding a registered gross vehicle weight of 4 500 kg, or a bus designed, constructed and used for the transportation of passengers with a designated seating capacity of more than 10, including the driver, but excluding the operation for personal use.

Inspector: (As defined in NSC) A person duly authorized to enforce federal or provincial statutes related to the Code.

Motor Carrier: (As defined in NSC) A person who owns, leases or is responsible for the operation of a commercial vehicle for the purpose of transporting passengers or goods.

Motor Coach: means a bus of 'monocoque' design, manufactured to provide intercity, suburban, commuter or charter service and equipped with under-floor baggage storage.

NSC Standard 13: Trip Inspections

Part 1 – General Requirements

(1) Vehicles to be inspected

No motor carrier shall permit a person and no person shall drive or operate a commercial vehicle on a highway unless the vehicle is inspected as required.

(2) Carrier to issue inspection schedules

Motor carriers shall provide the applicable schedule(s) of inspection items in a written or an equivalent electronic format and all vehicles shall be inspected in accordance with the schedule(s)¹.

(3) Driver to carry and surrender schedules

Drivers of a commercial vehicle shall have in their possession the applicable schedule(s) of inspection items and shall provide the schedules on demand of an inspector. (Schedule 4 need not be carried.)

(4) Required inspections (when operated)

- (a) Trucks, tractors and trailers shall be inspected in accordance with Schedule 1 every 24 hours.
- (b) Buses and any attached trailer² shall be inspected in accordance with Schedule 2 every 24 hours, or alternatively in the case of motor coaches equipped with air brakes, air ride suspension and automatic brake adjusters, in accordance with Schedule 3 every 24 hours and at least every 30 days or 12,000 km (whichever comes first) in accordance with:
 - i. Schedule 4, or
 - ii. an equivalent maintenance program approved by the jurisdiction that complies with Schedule 4 requirements.

(5) Report to be completed

- (a) A person conducting an inspection in accordance with Schedule 1 or 2 or 3 shall prepare a report in a written or an equivalent electronic format that contains the following information:
 - i. licence plate or unit number(s) of the vehicle(s);
 - ii. motor carrier's name;
 - iii. date and time of inspection;
 - iv. city, town, village or highway location where the inspection was performed;
 - v. a statement signed by the person conducting the inspection and by the person driving the vehicle (if different than the person inspecting the vehicle) that the vehicle(s) identified on the report has(have) been inspected in accordance with applicable requirements;
 - vi. the legible printed name of the person conducting the inspection; and
 - vii. odometer reading (if equipped).
- (b) A person conducting an inspection in accordance with subsection 4 (b) i or ii shall prepare a report in a written or an equivalent electronic format that contains the following information:
 - i. licence plate, VIN or unit number(s) of the vehicle(s);
 - ii. motor carrier's name;
 - iii. date(s) of inspection;
 - iv. location(s) where the inspection was performed;
 - v. a statement that the vehicle(s) identified on the report has(have) been inspected in accordance with applicable Schedule 4 requirements;
 - vi. the legible printed name of the person(s) conducting the inspection;
 - vii. the signature of the person(s) conducting the inspection;
 - viii. odometer reading(s).

¹ Schedules must contain at a minimum all inspection items listed, with the exception of items not present on the vehicle being operated. Schedule format and layout may vary.

² A trailer towed by a bus shall always be inspected in accordance with Schedule 2.

(6) Report to be carried

No motor carrier shall permit a person and no person shall drive a commercial vehicle on a highway unless that person is in possession of the required inspection report(s).

(7) Driver to provide report

A driver of a commercial vehicle shall provide a paper or equivalent electronic copy³ of the required inspection report(s) on demand of an inspector.

(8) When no defects are detected

When no defects are detected during an inspection, the person conducting the inspection shall record that fact on the inspection report(s).

(9) When defects are detected

A person conducting an inspection in accordance with Schedules 1, 2 or 3 shall record on the inspection report any defects detected during the inspection and shall report such defects to the motor carrier or a person appointed by the motor carrier prior to the next required inspection.

(10) Information to be recorded re: Schedule 4 inspections

A person conducting an inspection in accordance with Schedule 4 shall record brake adjustment measurements, all defects detected during the inspection, and the nature of all repairs carried out.

(11) Driver to monitor vehicle while driving

While driving and/or otherwise being in charge of a commercial vehicle, the driver shall monitor its condition in accordance with the schedule of inspection items, and when defects are detected, the driver shall record the defects on the inspection report and report the defects to the motor carrier prior to the next required inspection.

(12) Major defects to be reported immediately

When major defects are detected or disclosed to the driver while driving or otherwise being in charge of a vehicle, they shall be recorded on the inspection report and reported to the motor carrier immediately.

(13) Vehicle not to be operated with major defect

No motor carrier shall permit a person and no person shall drive a commercial vehicle on a highway when a major defect is present on the vehicle.

(14) Carrier to ensure defects are corrected

Motor carriers shall ensure that all previously reported vehicle defects are corrected before the next required inspection or within a timeframe specified by the jurisdiction of travel.

(15) Report to be given to carrier

Drivers shall forward the original of each inspection report to the motor carrier who is responsible for the commercial vehicle within 20 calendar days of the completion of the report.

(16) Carrier records

Carriers shall retain the original copy of each vehicle inspection report and certification of repairs for at least 6 months from the date the report was prepared.

(17) Schedule 4 inspections to be conducted by qualified person

Schedule 4 inspections shall be conducted while the vehicle is positioned over a pit or raised in a manner that provides adequate access to all of the applicable components by a person who holds the technician certification or qualification required in the jurisdiction (may not have to be certified mechanic; please check with jurisdiction).

³ The requirement for equivalent electronic copies should be the same as the Hours of Service requirements.

Schedule 2 – Bus

Application:

This schedule applies to buses designed, constructed and used for the transportation of passengers with a designated seating capacity of more than 10, including the driver, but excluding the operation for personal use, and also applies to any trailer towed by a bus.

1. Accessibility Devices	
Defect(s) <i>Accessibility device may not be used if:</i>	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alarm fails to operate. • Equipment malfunctions. • Interlock system malfunctions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle fails to return to normal level after "kneeling." • Extendable lift, ramp or other passenger-loading device fails to retract.
2. Air Brake System	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audible air leak. • Slow air pressure build-up rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pushrod stroke of any brake exceeds the adjustment limit. • Air loss rate exceeds prescribed limit. • Inoperative towing vehicle (tractor) protection system. • Low air warning system fails or system is activated. • Inoperative service, parking or emergency brake.
3. Cargo Securement	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecure or improper load covering (<u>e.g. wrong type or flapping in the wind</u>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecure cargo. • Absence, failure, malfunction or deterioration of required cargo securement device or load covering.
4. Coupling Devices	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coupler or mounting has loose or missing fastener. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coupler is insecure or movement exceeds prescribed limit. • Coupling or locking mechanism is damaged or fails to lock. • Defective, incorrect or missing safety chain/cable.
5. Dangerous Goods	
	Major Defect(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous goods requirements not met.
6. Doors and Emergency Exits	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s) (<i>Passengers may not be carried¹.</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door, window or hatch fails to open or close securely. • Alarm inoperative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required emergency exit fails to function as intended. <p>¹ <u>vehicle may be moved when no passenger carried.</u></p>
7. Driver Controls	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s) (<i>Passengers may not be carried².</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerator pedal, clutch, gauges, audible and visual indicators or instruments fail to function properly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerator sticking and engine fails to return to idle. <p>² <u>vehicle may be moved when no passenger carried.</u></p>

8. Driver Seat	
Defect(s) • Seat is damaged or fails to remain in set position.	Major Defect(s) • Seatbelt or tether belt is insecure, missing or malfunctions.
9. Electric Brake System	
Defect(s) • Loose or insecure wiring or electrical connection.	Major Defect(s) • Inoperative breakaway device. • Inoperative brake.
10. Emergency Equipment & Safety Devices	
Defect(s) • Emergency equipment is missing, damaged or defective.	
11. Exhaust System	
Defect(s) • Exhaust leak.	Major Defect(s) • Leak that causes exhaust gas to enter the occupant compartment.
12. Exterior Body and Frame	
Defect(s) • Insecure or missing body parts. • Insecure or missing compartment door. • Damaged frame or body.	Major Defect(s) • Visibly shifted, cracked, collapsing or sagging frame member(s).
13. Fuel System	
	Major Defect(s) • Missing fuel tank cap ¹ . • Insecure fuel tank. • Dripping fuel leak. ¹ <u>vehicle may be moved when no passenger carried.</u>
14. General	
	Major Defect(s) • Serious damage or deterioration that is noticeable and may affect the vehicle's safe operation.
15. Glass and Mirrors	
Defect(s) • Required mirror or window glass fails to provide the required view to the driver as a result of being cracked, broken, damaged, missing or maladjusted. • Required mirror or glass has broken or damaged attachments onto vehicle body.	Major Defect(s) <i>(Passengers may not be carried.²)</i> Driver's view of the road is obstructed in the area swept by the windshield wipers. ² <u>vehicle may be moved when no passenger carried.</u>
16. Heater/Defroster	
Defect(s) • Control or system failure.	Major Defect(s) • Defroster fails to provide unobstructed view through the windshield.

17. Horn	
Defect(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle has no operative horn. 	
18. Hydraulic Brake System	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brake fluid level is below indicated minimum level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Parking brake is inoperative.</u> • Brake boost or power assist is inoperative. • Brake fluid leak. • Brake pedal fade or insufficient brake pedal reserve. • Activated (other than ABS) warning device. • Brake fluid reservoir is less than ¼ full.
19. Lamps and Reflectors	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Required lamp</u> does not function as intended. • Required reflector is missing or partially missing. • Passenger safety or access lamp does not function. 	<p><i>When lamps are required:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure of both low-beam headlamps. • Failure of both rearmost tail lamps. <p><i>At all times:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure of a rearmost turn-indicator lamp. • Failure of both rearmost brake lamps.
20. Passenger Compartment	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanchion padding is damaged. • Damaged steps or floor. • Insecure or damaged overhead luggage rack or compartment. • Malfunction or absence of required passenger or mobility device restraints. • Passenger seat is insecure. 	<p><i>When affected position is occupied:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malfunction or absence of required passenger or mobility device restraints. • Passenger seat is insecure.
21. Steering	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering wheel lash (free-play) is greater than normal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering wheel is insecure, or does not respond normally. • Steering wheel lash (free-play) exceeds required limit.
22. Suspension System	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air leak in air suspension system. • Broken spring leaf. • Suspension fastener is loose, missing or broken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged¹ or deflated air bag. • Cracked or broken main spring leaf or more than one broken spring leaf in any spring assembly. • Part of spring leaf or suspension is missing, shifted out of place or in contact with another vehicle component. • Loose U-bolt.
	¹ patched, cut, bruised, cracked to braid, mounted insecurely.

23. Tires	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged tread or sidewall of tire. • Tire leaking (<u>if leak can be felt or heard, tire is to be treated as flat</u>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat tire. • Tire tread depth is less than wear limit. • Tire is in contact with another tire or any vehicle component other than mud-flap. • Tire is marked “Not for highway use”. • Tire has exposed cords in the tread or outer side wall area.
24. Wheels, Hubs and Fasteners	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hub oil below minimum level. (When fitted with sight glass.) • Leaking wheel seal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheel has loose, missing or ineffective fastener. • Damaged, cracked or broken wheel, rim or attaching part. • Evidence of imminent wheel, hub or bearing failure.
25. Windshield Wiper/Washer	
Defect(s)	Major Defect(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control or system malfunction. • Wiper blade damaged, missing or fails to adequately clear driver’s field of vision. 	<p><i>When necessary for prevailing weather condition.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiper or washer fails to adequately clear driver’s field of vision in area swept by driver’s side wiper.