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	STANDARD: **FMCSA 49 CFR Part 396 / Appendix G**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Annual Audit**

Dot Annual Vehicle Inspection Inspection Checklist

Operational Scope: This document establishes the mandatory operational standard for performing commercial motor vehicle annual inspections under FMCSA guidelines. The primary objective is to mitigate catastrophic mechanical failures, ensure absolute compliance with federal safety mandates, and certify vehicles as safe for highway deployment.

MANDATORY PPE:	Steel-Toe Boots (ASTM F2413), Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1), High-Visibility Vest (ANSI/ISEA 107), Mechanic Gloves (Cut-Resistant), Bump Cap or Hard Hat
PREREQUISITES:	Verify vehicle engine is shut down, parking brakes are fully engaged, and chocks are securely placed against wheels. | Ensure inspection bay is well-lit, properly ventilated, and clear of unauthorized personnel. | Gather digital diagnostic scanner, tread depth gauge, brake lining measuring tool, and flashlight.

BRAKING SYSTEMS AND STEERING MECHANISM

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Service Brakes & Rotors/Drums**	Linings/pads must not be contaminated with oil or grease and must exceed minimum thickness requirements (0.25 inch or manufacturer spec). Drums and rotors must be free of major cracks or deep scoring.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
2	**Brake Hoses and Air Lines**	Inspect for cracks, bulges, chafing, or audible air leaks. Hoses must not be stretched, crimped, or improperly routed near heat sources.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
3	**Steering Wheel and Gearbox**	Check steering wheel play for excessive lash. Verify gearbox is securely mounted to frame and free of fluid leaks or structural cracks.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
4	**Tie Rods, Drag Links, and Pitman Arm**	Inspect ball and socket joints for excessive wear or play. Verify cotter pins and retainer nuts are intact and properly torqued.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

LIGHTING, ELECTRICAL, AND SUSPENSION SYSTEMS

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
5	**Lighting Devices and Reflectors**	All headlamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, turn signals, and clearance lights must be operational and clean. Reflectors must be unblemished and securely mounted.	**Warning**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
6	**Spring Assembly and Suspension**	Check for cracked, broken, or shifted leaf springs. U-bolts and axle positioning parts must not be loose or missing.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
7	**Shock Absorbers**	Inspect for severe leakage, broken mounts, or missing lower/upper hardware. Operational resistance must be maintained.	**Standard**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
8	**Frame Members**	Inspect frame rails for cracks, loose fasteners, or damage resulting from overloading or corrosion in critical load-bearing zones.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

TIRES, WHEELS, COUPLING DEVICES, AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
9	**Tires (Tread Depth and Condition)**	Steer tires must have at least 4/32-inch tread depth; non-steer tires must have at least 2/32-inch. Check sidewalls for bulges, cuts, or exposed cords.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
10	**Wheels, Rims, and Lugs**	Check for rust streaks around lug nuts indicating looseness. Rims must be free of cracks, welded repairs, or excessive distortion.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
11	**Coupling Devices (Fifth Wheel / Pintle)**	Inspect locking jaws, safety latches, and mounting bolts for structural integrity, excessive wear, or lateral movement.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
12	**Emergency Equipment (Fire Extinguisher & Triangles)**	Verify fire extinguisher is fully charged and inspected. Ensure three emergency reflective triangles are present, undamaged, and accessible.	**Warning**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

Certified Inspector / Lead Fleet Mechanic Signature: _____	**Date / Time:** _____	**Badge / Cert #:** _____
Fleet Maintenance Manager / Safety Director Sign-off: _____	**Review Date:** _____	**Audit Status:** [ ] Approved [ ] Rectify

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