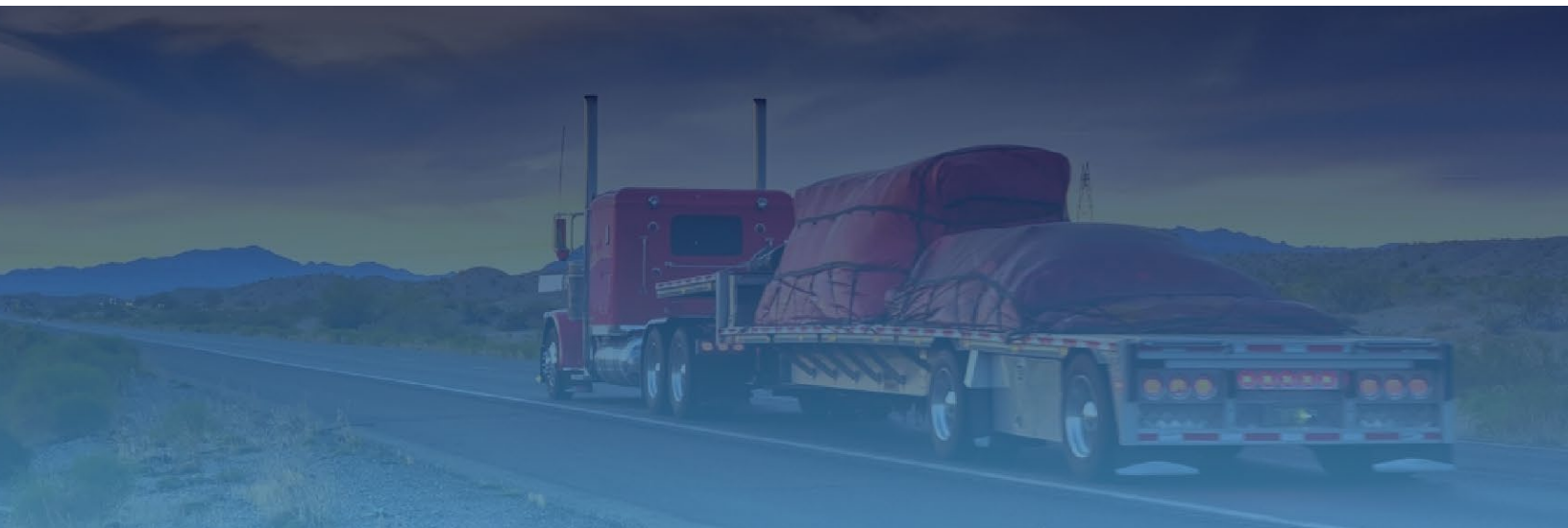




Roadability

Recommended Practices – Pre-Trip

Inspection Kit



The problem

Inconsistent pre-trip inspection practices lead to preventable roadside violations, increased maintenance costs, safety risks, and operational disruption.

Drivers often lack standardized tools and simple resources to perform effective inspections in time-constrained environments.

Core principles

- **Assign consistency through standardization:** Ensure all drivers have the same baseline tools.
- **Prioritize prevention:** Early detection reduces failures and cost.
- **Keep it driver-friendly:** Tools must be practical and easy to use.
- **Enable clear communication:** Standard methods improve accountability and repair speed.
- **Encourage an in-depth inspection as defined & required the following sections of Title 49 in the Code of Federal Regulations:**
 - [396.3](#)
 - [396.13](#)
 - [392.7](#)

Recommended pre-trip inspection kit

Inspection & Verification Tools

- Tire tread depth gauge
- Air pressure gauge
- Brake stroke measurement tool
- 7-way circuit tester
- LED flashlight

Minor Defect Mitigation

- Gladhand seals
- Spare service gladhand (Blue)
- Spare emergency gladhand (Red)
- Valve stem caps
- Pigtail wedge

Documentation & Communication

- Trailer condition decal
- Permanent marker
- Laminated inspection reminder card

Driver Safety

- High-visibility safety vest
- Nitrile-coated gloves

Optional Support Items

- Landing gear crank handle

Implementation

- **Month 1:** Align with M&R Committee and finalize kit
- **Months 2–3:** Pilot deployment and feedback
- **Months 4–6:** Broader rollout
- **Ongoing:** Continuous improvement

Bottom line

Roadability begins with consistent inspections and proper education. A standardized pre-trip kit equips drivers to identify and prevent issues before they escalate—improving safety, reducing cost, and strengthening reliability.