Federal law requires a driver to always perform a pre-trip inspection. We care about safety so we put together this quick guide to provide you a basic overview. It is very important to always refer to your company’s safety procedures and policies for complete compliance.
13-STEP PRE-TRIP INSPECTION PROCESS

It is important to always remember to reference your company’s safety procedures and policies for complete compliance.

1. Start from the front of the trailer. Inspect the driver-side of your trailer. See if the front trailer support is fully raised and undamaged. Verify that the crank handle is present and secured. Check for missing or broken lights and reflectors. Inspect for frame and body damage. Check to make sure you have the proper placarding in place.

2. Inspect the fifth-wheel coupling system for no visible space between the upper and lower fifth wheel. Make sure it is positioned properly—that the locking jaws are around the shank and not the head of the kingpin. Then ensure that the release lever is properly seated and the safety latch and lock is engaged.

3. At the area between the trailer and tractor, inspect all air and electrical connections—that they are sealed and in good condition. Check glad hands for proper mounting. Verify that there’s no damage and that they’re not leaking. Inspect all lights and reflectors.

4. Check the condition of all visible parts on your tractor and the driver-side saddle fuel tank area. Check for fresh oil, coolant, fuel and grease on the ground under the vehicle.

5. Check the condition of your tractor’s wheels, tires, suspension, front brakes—including brake drums, hoses, air chamber mounting and slack adjusters. Check all fluids and look under the vehicle for fresh oil, grease, coolant or fuel leaks.

6. Move to the front of the cab. Check the front axle, steering system, the condition of the windshield, lights and reflectors. Check for leaks.

7. Move clockwise to the curb-side. Repeat the same procedures you conducted on the driver-side. Inspect wheels, tires, suspension, front brake, brake drums, hoses, chamber mounting and slack adjusters. Again check for leaks.

8. Move to the curb-side saddle tank area and inspect the condition of all visible parts including bottom rail, sidewall, reflectors, lights, and the curb-side fuel tank. And check for leaks.

9. Now check the rear of your tractor and along your trailer. Look for a bent or damaged frame or damage to cross members. Check for missing lights or reflectors.

10. Stop at the curb-side rear trailer wheels—inspect wheels and tires. Verify that tires are the same type. Check tandem axles, suspension and brakes. Check for leaks.

11. Move to the rear of the trailer and check for broken lights and reflectors. Verify that your cargo is properly secured, blocked, braced, tied, chained, and/or doors locked.

12. Keep moving along the trailer to inspect the driver-side rear wheels and tires. Check inflation and again verify that the tires are the same type. Inspect tandem axle, suspension and brakes. Check ground for leaks.

13. Keep moving towards the front of the trailer, check for missing or broken lights and reflectors. Look for frame and body damage and again for proper placards.

You are now finished. If anything is broken or damaged, notify your service department and/or get it fixed immediately.

Visit www.UtilityTrailer.com/PreTripSafetyInspectionVideo to watch the video.