



JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

January 2019

Dear Illinois School Bus Transportation Officials:

In July 2018, the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office amended the pre-trip testing guidelines to match FMCSA pre-trip guidelines.

When conducting a pre-trip inspection, applicants must be prepared to point to and explain all safety related items in association with each of the components listed in the table below (if their vehicle is so equipped) and/or be able to perform the functions associated with certain items. A randomized exam will be given to each applicant.

Safety Belt & Safe Start Emergency Equipment Gauges, Lighting Indicators & Horns Heater & Defroster Windshield, Mirrors, Wipers & Washer Hydraulic Brake Check Parking & Service Brake Check Trailer Brake Check	Air Gauge* Air Lines & Connectors* Air Brake Check Procedure* Air Compressor Belt/Gear* Brake Chamber* Slack Adjustor & Push Rod* *These items apply only if the test vehicle is equipped with air brakes.	Front Vehicle Lights & Reflectors Rear Vehicle Lights & Reflectors Side Vehicle Lights & Reflectors Driver Door & Mirrors Fuel Tank, Caps & Leaks Catwalk & Steps Drive Shaft, Exhaust & Frame Doors, Ties & Lifts
Truck/Trailer Coupling & Connection Items Electrical Lines and Connectors Mounting Bolts & Safety Devices Release Devices & Tongue Storage Area Ball/Pintle Hook & Tongue/Drawbar Sliding Pintle or Sliding 5th Wheel Platform, Locking Jaws & Skid Plate Kingpin, Apron & Gap Trailer Header Board/Bulkhead Trailer Lights, Reflectors & ABS (all) Landing Gear Frame & Tandem Release	Oil, Coolant & Steering Fluids Water Pump & Steering Pump Belts/Gears Alternator Belt/Gear Fluid Hoses & Leaks Steering Box, Hoses & Linkage Tires, Rims & Lug Nuts Axle/Hub Oil Seals Spacers/Budd Spacing Springs, Air Bags, Shocks & U-bolts Spring/Air Mounts, Torque Arm Brake Hoses/Lines Brake Drums & Linings/Rotor & Pad Splash Guards	Passenger & School Bus items Passenger Entry & Lift Emergency Exits Seating Baggage Compartment Doors Student Lights* Stop Arm & Safety Arm* Student Mirrors* Emergency & Body Fluid Kit* *These items apply only if the test vehicle is a School Bus.

The CDL Study Guide was updated in September 2017, in preparation for the July 2018 implementation, to reflect these changes. Pages 140-149 of the CDL Study Guide give exact details of the pre-trip vehicle inspection test. The CDL Study Guide may be accessed online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Notable aspects of the pre-trip exam for school bus drivers include the following:

- The pre-trip test will begin with the driver conducting a complete in-vehicle cab check and engine start, including the air brakes check (if applicable).
- The driver will then be asked to conduct a physical exam of all passenger items and school bus items in the vehicle.
- After those sections have been completed the testing tablet will randomly pick which area of the bus the driver will inspect next:
 - Vehicle Front, Engine Compartment, Front Axle, and Steering Section
 - Driver Area, Under Vehicle, Rear Axle, and Vehicle Rear Section

If you have any questions regarding the pre-trip, skills, and road exams for CDL applicants, please contact the Illinois Secretary of State CDL Unit at (217) 782-3108. If you have questions about requirements for obtaining a School Bus Permit, please contact the Safe Ride Unit at (217) 782-7674.

Kevin Duesterhaus, Manager
Commercial Driver’s License Unit
Driver Services Department

KD: