Commercial trailer inspection preparation

Complete Checklist

Commercial trailer inspection preparation worksheet

Common preparation, professional-service discussion topics, and all four trailer-type sections.

PREPARATION AID: NOT AN INSPECTION REPORT

Use this worksheet to organize records, note concerns you already know about, and prepare questions for a qualified inspection professional. Skip the equipment sections that do not apply.

Use This Checklist Safely

Fill this in from your records and from what you can already see safely. Nothing here asks you to test, dismantle, or get underneath equipment. Leave the technical checks to qualified personnel.

01 Prepare Your Records and Service Notes

- [ ] Record the trailer unit number or other identifier already available in your paperwork.
- [ ] Locate the trailer's most recent inspection documentation; mark missing or uncertain records in your notes.
- [ ] Gather relevant maintenance records and notes about unresolved or recurring concerns.
- [ ] Write down warning lights or electrical problems you have already noticed, including when they occur.
- [ ] Note known brake-performance concerns, unusual air sounds, or previously reported air-line damage.
- [ ] Note tire damage or unusual wear you can already see, and where on the trailer it is.
- [ ] Record lights, reflectors, or conspicuity markings you already know are damaged, missing, or not working.
- [ ] Record known concerns involving the coupling, support legs, frame, or suspension.
- [ ] Note leaks, vibration, unusual wheel heat, or unusual noise you have already observed.
- [ ] Tell the shop whether the trailer is loaded, empty, sealed, or subject to access restrictions.
- [ ] Confirm who can authorize access and repairs before the appointment.
- [ ] Have the yard/shop location and safe access arrangements ready to discuss when requesting service.

02 Discuss These Systems With the Inspection Professional

Discussion prompts only. This is not an inspection report or a pass/fail form.

- [ ] Service and parking brakes; air-system components where fitted
- [ ] ABS components and warning indications where applicable
- [ ] Coupling/kingpin and other applicable connection components
- [ ] Frame and structural condition
- [ ] Suspension and related attachments
- [ ] Tires and their condition
- [ ] Wheels, rims, and fasteners
- [ ] Required lighting and reflective devices
- [ ] Rear impact protection where applicable

> The professional inspection must address the requirements that apply to the actual vehicle. These topic headings are a summary, not every required test or rejection criterion.

03 Dry Van: Body and Access Notes

- [ ] Note known door, hinge, latch, or roller problems and whether doors can be accessed safely by the technician.
- [ ] Describe floor or interior damage already observed, including its location.
- [ ] Record roof or wall leaks, impact damage, or water entry you have noticed.
- [ ] Tell the shop about cargo, seals, locks, or access limitations that may affect inspection or repair planning.

> These are preparation notes. Contact the shop to confirm the scope of any requested body, floor, door, roof, or wall work.

04 Refrigerated Trailer: Body and Refrigeration-Service Notes

- [ ] Note known door-seal, body, floor, or water-entry concerns.
- [ ] Record any refrigeration-unit warning message or operating concern already known.
- [ ] Bring the unit's identifying information or maintenance record when already available.
- [ ] Explain whether the trailer contains a temperature-controlled load and identify any access restrictions before arranging service.
- [ ] Ask whether refrigeration-unit maintenance should be handled as a separate service request from the trailer's periodic inspection.

> This section does not certify cargo temperature, food safety, or refrigeration-system performance. Confirm requested refrigeration-service scope with JC Trailmaster.

05 Flatbed: Deck and Securement-Equipment Notes

- [ ] Record deck damage or loose/damaged fittings already known from normal operations.
- [ ] Note previously observed damage involving cargo-securement attachment points or installed accessories.
- [ ] Tell the shop whether cargo prevents access to any part of the trailer.
- [ ] Describe known concerns involving fitted ramps, headboards, storage boxes, or accessories.

> This worksheet does not design a load-securement arrangement, calculate tie-down requirements, or authorize transport of a particular load.

06 Intermodal Chassis: Equipment and Container-Mounting Notes

- [ ] Record the chassis identifier and equipment-provider information already available in your documents.
- [ ] State whether the chassis is empty or carrying a container and identify known access restrictions.
- [ ] Report known concerns involving container locks, mounting points, or securement components.
- [ ] Note previously reported damage involving the chassis frame, support equipment, or sliding components where fitted.
- [ ] Ask the responsible equipment provider or inspection professional how to report unresolved equipment concerns and arrange the appropriate work.

> Container securement has equipment-specific requirements. This preparation list does not confirm correct locking, container securement, or interchange acceptance.

07 Questions, Writing Space & Next Steps

Trailer / unit reference: _____

Date these preparation notes were made: _____

Known concerns / questions for the shop:

Questions to discuss

- What inspection and repair work is included in the proposed appointment?
- Is shop or mobile service appropriate for the equipment and location?
- What authorization, access, scheduling, and pricing details need confirmation?

Next step: discuss the work with JC Trailmaster

770-906-4781 · Request service · View the checklist online

5225 John G Glover Ind Ct, Ellenwood, GA 30294

Mon–Fri: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM · Saturday: By Appointment Only

Disclaimer: This checklist is a preparation aid, not a professional inspection, passing certificate, or proof of roadworthiness. Requirements vary by equipment and operation, so follow your carrier's safety procedures and seek qualified assistance. JC Trailmaster confirms service scope, availability, and pricing.

Official references

- 49 CFR 396.17: Periodic inspection
- Part 396, Appendix A: Minimum periodic inspection standards
- 49 CFR 396.13: Driver inspection
- 49 CFR 393.126: Intermodal containers

Source links checked October 27, 2026. Checklist version 1.0.