Commercial trailer inspection preparation

Dry Van Checklist

Commercial trailer inspection preparation worksheet

Common preparation and professional-service discussion topics, plus dry van preparation notes.

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 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.