JC Trailmaster

TRAILER - CONTAINER - CHASSIS REPAIR

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE YARD

Commercial Trailer Pre-Trip Checklist

18 practical reminders for commercial trailer drivers before departure. Note what you find and record where on the trailer you found it.

Ten minutes is a starting point, not a deadline. Take longer when your trailer, the conditions, or your carrier's procedures require it.

> This checklist does not replace required inspections, driver training, equipment-specific instructions, or carrier procedures.

Trailer / unit: _____ Date: _____

Driver: _____ Trailer type / load status: _____

Mark items as reminders addressed, where applicable. Record concerns on page 2. A marked box is not a passing result, repair sign-off, or permission to operate.

01 Trailer & Trip Details

- [ ] Match the unit number to your dispatch paperwork.
- [ ] Note load status and any access limits.
- [ ] Review the last inspection report for signed-off defects.

02 Coupling & Connections

- [ ] Check the trailer kingpin and upper coupler area for visible damage.
- [ ] Trace air and electrical lines for cuts or loose fittings.
- [ ] Check the landing gear is raised and not bent.

03 Tires, Wheels & Structure

- [ ] At each wheel: cuts, bulges, exposed cord, or low tire.
- [ ] Check rims for cracks, rust streaks at the studs, loose nuts.
- [ ] Note grease on a hub, fluid beneath it, or frame damage.

04 Lights, Reflectors & ABS

- [ ] With lights on, check each position, both sides.
- [ ] Note any lamp dark, cracked, or holding water.
- [ ] Check reflectors and tape; record an ABS lamp that stays lit.

05 Doors, Seals & Load

- [ ] Work the doors; note hinges or latches that bind.
- [ ] Check door seals and roof line for tears or staining.
- [ ] On a sealed load, confirm the seal number.

06 Brakes & Air Lines

- [ ] Look behind each wheel for loose or missing brake parts.
- [ ] Listen for air escaping at glad hands, lines, chambers.
- [ ] Confirm brakes apply and release as you were trained.

RECORD WHAT YOU NOTICE

Concerns & Follow-Up

Identify the trailer and the location of each concern. Describe what you observed; you do not need to diagnose the failed part.

Trailer / unit: _____ Date: _____

Location on trailer	Observation / previously reported concern

Who was notified / follow-up to discuss

Found a concern?

Report it through your carrier's process and ask qualified personnel to assess anything you cannot resolve. Do not operate unsafe equipment. Checking a box does not certify the trailer or establish that a defect has been repaired.

This worksheet is not a required inspection report or repair record. It focuses on trailer reminders, not every check required for the tractor, vehicle combination, cargo, or operation.

Need trailer repair or maintenance?

Contact JC Trailmaster to discuss your equipment, concerns, and available service options.

770-906-4781 | Request service | Read the guide online

5225 John G Glover Ind Ct, Ellenwood, GA 30294

Official references

- 49 CFR 392.7: Equipment, inspection and use
- 49 CFR 396.13: Driver inspection
- FMCSA: Driver vehicle inspection reports

Version 1 | Printable driver reminder worksheet