Mississippi CDL General Knowledge Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. What should you do after charging the air brake system?

A. Inspect the tires for damage

B. Test the parking brake

C. Check the connection between the dolly and trailer

D. Pull out the trailer air supply control

2. Which type of vehicles are more prone to getting stuck on a railroad-highway crossing?

A. Heavy-duty trucks with double trailers

B. Standard passenger vehicles

C. Low Slug Units with a long trailer

D. High-clearance vehicles

3. How can you determine if your trailer is equipped with antilock brakes?

A. By checking for Yellow ABS Malfunction lamps on the trailer

B. By visually inspecting the brake lines

C. By performing a brake test

D. By the manufacturer’s manual only

4. What is one common misconception about trucks and stopping distances?

A. Trucks can stop just as quickly as cars

B. Trucks require longer stopping distances

C. Drivers should always rely on emergency brakes

D. All trucks have similar stopping capabilities

5. Which statement is true about vehicle maintenance on hot days?

A. It’s safe to check all fluids.

B. Wait for the vehicle to cool down before checking.

C. You should always check tire pressure.

D. Check the radiator cap regularly.

6. Which of the following is an effective method for ensuring safety while backing?

A. Rely solely on mirrors.

B. Use a helper and check blind spots.

C. Back quickly to minimize time.

D. Use only rearview cameras.

7. It is illegal to operate a CMV if you have a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level of what?

A. .02 and higher

B. .04 and higher

C. .08 and higher

D. .10 and higher

8. A yellow highway sign is used for what purpose?

A. Tourist attractions

B. General warning

C. Directions

D. Speed limits

9. How often should you inspect your tires in very hot conditions?

A. Every 30 minutes

B. Every hour

C. Every 2 hours or every 100 miles

D. Every 4 hours

10. When using a fire extinguisher, how close should you get to the fire?

A. As close as possible

B. Within 10 feet

C. At arm's length

D. As far away as possible

Answers

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. B
6. B
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. D

Explanations

1. What should you do after charging the air brake system?

A. Inspect the tires for damage

B. Test the parking brake

C. Check the connection between the dolly and trailer

D. Pull out the trailer air supply control

After charging the air brake system, the appropriate action is to test the parking brake. This ensures that the parking brake is functioning correctly and is holding the vehicle securely in place. It is crucial to confirm that the air brake system has adequate pressure and that the components are working properly before moving the vehicle. Testing the parking brake also helps prevent accidents caused by a failure to secure the vehicle, allowing the driver to verify that the brakes can hold the weight of the truck and any attached load. Performing this test is a critical part of the pre-trip inspection and overall safety protocol for operating a commercial vehicle. While inspecting the tires, checking the connection between the dolly and trailer, and pulling out the trailer air supply control are all important maintenance and safety checks, they are not the immediate actions to take after the air brake system has been charged. Ensuring the parking brake is operational directly correlates to the immediate safety and functionality of the vehicle before it is put into motion.

2. Which type of vehicles are more prone to getting stuck on a railroad-highway crossing?

A. Heavy-duty trucks with double trailers

B. Standard passenger vehicles

C. Low Slug Units with a long trailer

D. High-clearance vehicles

Low Slug Units with a long trailer are more prone to getting stuck on a railroad-highway crossing due to their design and dimensions. These vehicles typically have a longer and lower profile, which may result in their undercarriage being closer to the ground. When navigating over railroad tracks, particularly if the tracks are elevated or if there are steep approaches, there is a higher risk that the vehicle could bottom out or become lodged. Additionally, these units may struggle more with uneven surfaces often found at crossings, where depressions or misalignments can pose challenges. The long trailer aspect further compounds the issue, as it can create a larger turning radius and may make it harder to maneuver away from tracks if the vehicle begins to get stuck. In contrast, heavy-duty trucks with double trailers and high-clearance vehicles generally have a design purpose and configurations that mitigate the risks associated with crossing railroad tracks. Standard passenger vehicles, while they can face issues at crossings, are less likely to get stuck compared to specialized units designed for cargo.

3. How can you determine if your trailer is equipped with antilock brakes?

A. By checking for Yellow ABS Malfunction lamps on the trailer

B. By visually inspecting the brake lines

C. By performing a brake test

D. By the manufacturer's manual only

The correct answer highlights the significance of the Yellow ABS Malfunction lamps as a clear indicator of whether your trailer is equipped with antilock brakes. These lamps are part of the antilock braking system (ABS) and serve as a diagnostic tool. When the trailer is started, the yellow lamps illuminate briefly to indicate that the system is functioning properly. If the lamp remains lit after the initial check, it suggests a malfunction, indicating that the trailer may either be equipped with ABS and has issues or does not have antilock brakes at all. While other options may contribute to understanding general brake functionality or maintenance, they do not specifically confirm the presence of antilock brakes. Visual inspection of brake lines can reveal physical issues but wouldn't indicate the existence of an ABS system. Performing a brake test assesses overall braking performance but does not specifically identify whether the trailer has antilock brakes. Referring to the manufacturer's manual may provide details about the trailer's features, but visibility of the ABS lamp provides direct confirmation of the system's presence on the trailer itself.

4. What is one common misconception about trucks and stopping distances?

A. Trucks can stop just as quickly as cars

B. Trucks require longer stopping distances

C. Drivers should always rely on emergency brakes

D. All trucks have similar stopping capabilities

One prevalent misconception is that trucks can stop just as quickly as cars. This belief overlooks the significant differences in size, weight, and braking systems between trucks and passenger vehicles. Trucks are generally much larger and heavier than cars, meaning they possess more momentum and require a greater distance to come to a complete stop. The stopping distance is influenced by several factors, including the truck's weight, speed, road conditions, and the type of brakes used. Understanding this principle is crucial for safe driving, especially in maintaining a safe following distance and avoiding accidents. Recognizing the longer stopping distances required by trucks fosters awareness among drivers, particularly in situations where quick stopping might be necessary.

5. Which statement is true about vehicle maintenance on hot days?

A. It’s safe to check all fluids.

B. Wait for the vehicle to cool down before checking.

C. You should always check tire pressure.

D. Check the radiator cap regularly.

Waiting for the vehicle to cool down before checking is important because many engine components can reach extremely high temperatures during operation. Checking fluids or components while the vehicle is still hot can lead to serious burns or injury, especially when dealing with engine oil, transmission fluid, or coolant. These fluids can be pressurized and may spew out when opened if the engine is hot, posing a safety risk. While it is vital to check all fluids regularly, doing so safely involves ensuring the engine is cool. This practice helps maintain personal safety as well as the proper function of the vehicle, as hot emissions or components can provide inaccurate readings or even damage to the vehicle system when handled recklessly.

6. Which of the following is an effective method for ensuring safety while backing?

A. Rely solely on mirrors.

B. Use a helper and check blind spots.

C. Back quickly to minimize time.

D. Use only rearview cameras.

Using a helper and checking blind spots is considered the most effective method for ensuring safety while backing a vehicle, especially for larger trucks or vehicles with limited visibility. When backing up, there are numerous blind spots that drivers cannot see using their mirrors alone. A helper can provide guidance and signal when it is safe to move, which greatly reduces the risk of accidents. Additionally, checking blind spots helps to validate that the area behind the vehicle is clear of obstacles, pedestrians, or other vehicles. This dual approach—utilizing both a helper's assistance and a thorough check of blind spots—enhances overall situational awareness and safety when maneuvering in reverse. Relying solely on mirrors, backing quickly, or using only rearview cameras do not provide the same level of safety and awareness. Mirrors can miss crucial areas, backing quickly increases the risk of losing control, and while rearview cameras can assist, they do not eliminate blind spots entirely and should not be the only factor in decision-making.

7. It is illegal to operate a CMV if you have a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level of what?

A. .02 and higher

B. .04 and higher

C. .08 and higher

D. .10 and higher

Operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level of .04 or higher is illegal because this standard is specifically set for commercial drivers to ensure public safety. The reasoning behind this threshold is that drivers of larger vehicles, such as buses and trucks, are held to stricter standards due to the potential risks involved in operating such vehicles. The .04 BAC limit reflects a recognition that the impairing effects of alcohol can significantly increase the likelihood of accidents while driving a CMV, even at lower levels than those deemed acceptable for non-commercial drivers. In contrast, drivers of non-commercial vehicles have a legal limit of .08 BAC. This difference underscores the heightened responsibility of CMV operators and the increased risks that their driving poses to themselves and others on the road. By adhering to the .04 limit, CMV drivers help promote safety on the roads and avoid severe penalties that could result from violating this regulation.

8. A yellow highway sign is used for what purpose?

A. Tourist attractions

B. General warning

C. Directions

D. Speed limits

A yellow highway sign serves the important function of providing general warning to drivers. These signs are designed to alert drivers to potential hazards or changes in road conditions that they need to be aware of as they navigate. For instance, a yellow sign may indicate curves ahead, pedestrian crossings, or the presence of wildlife on the roadway. The color yellow signifies caution, prompting drivers to slow down and prepare for any necessary adjustments. In contrast, other sign colors and types serve different purposes: signs for tourist attractions usually use specific colors that indicate points of interest, while directional signs help guide drivers to various destinations. Speed limit signs are typically posted in white with black lettering, clearly stating the maximum speed allowed on a given stretch of road. The distinction in colors and designs across traffic signs is crucial for maintaining safety and ensuring that drivers can quickly assess the information being communicated to them.

9. How often should you inspect your tires in very hot conditions?

A. Every 30 minutes

B. Every hour

C. Every 2 hours or every 100 miles

D. Every 4 hours

Regular tire inspection in hot conditions is crucial for safety and vehicle performance. In very hot weather, tire pressure can rise significantly, which increases the risk of blowouts, tire wear, and other issues. Inspecting your tires every 2 hours or every 100 miles allows for timely detection of potential problems, such as uneven wear, low pressure, or damage that could lead to tire failure. This interval balances the need for vigilance with practicality, ensuring that any changes in tire condition can be quickly addressed, reducing the chances of an accident or breakdown on the road. Frequent inspections like this are especially important in high-temperature scenarios where tires can heat up quickly and the heat can affect their integrity.

10. When using a fire extinguisher, how close should you get to the fire?

A. As close as possible

B. Within 10 feet

C. At arm's length

D. As far away as possible

The recommended approach to using a fire extinguisher is to maintain a safe distance from the fire while still being able to effectively extinguish it. Being as far away as possible helps minimize the risk of injury from flames, smoke, or potential explosions that can occur in an uncontrolled fire situation. Maintaining this distance allows the individual to assess the situation better and enables the use of the extinguisher effectively without putting themselves in immediate danger. While getting too close can expose you to increased hazards, it is also crucial to ensure that you are within a reasonable range to accurately direct the extinguisher's contents at the base of the fire. This way, you can effectively target the flames without getting too close to the heat and danger. Therefore, it's important to balance safety with effectiveness and stand far enough away to ensure personal safety, while still being able to extinguish the flames effectively.