



Rumaila  
Operating  
Organisation

# Heavy Vehicle Safety

12 Basic Vehicle Maintenance Checks

# Introduction

Both the owner and driver have a responsibility to ensure that vehicles remain safe and roadworthy. The owner is responsible for ensuring that the vehicle is maintained in accordance with the Manufacturer's Recommended Maintenance Schedule and the driver is responsible to check the vehicle prior to use and report any defects.

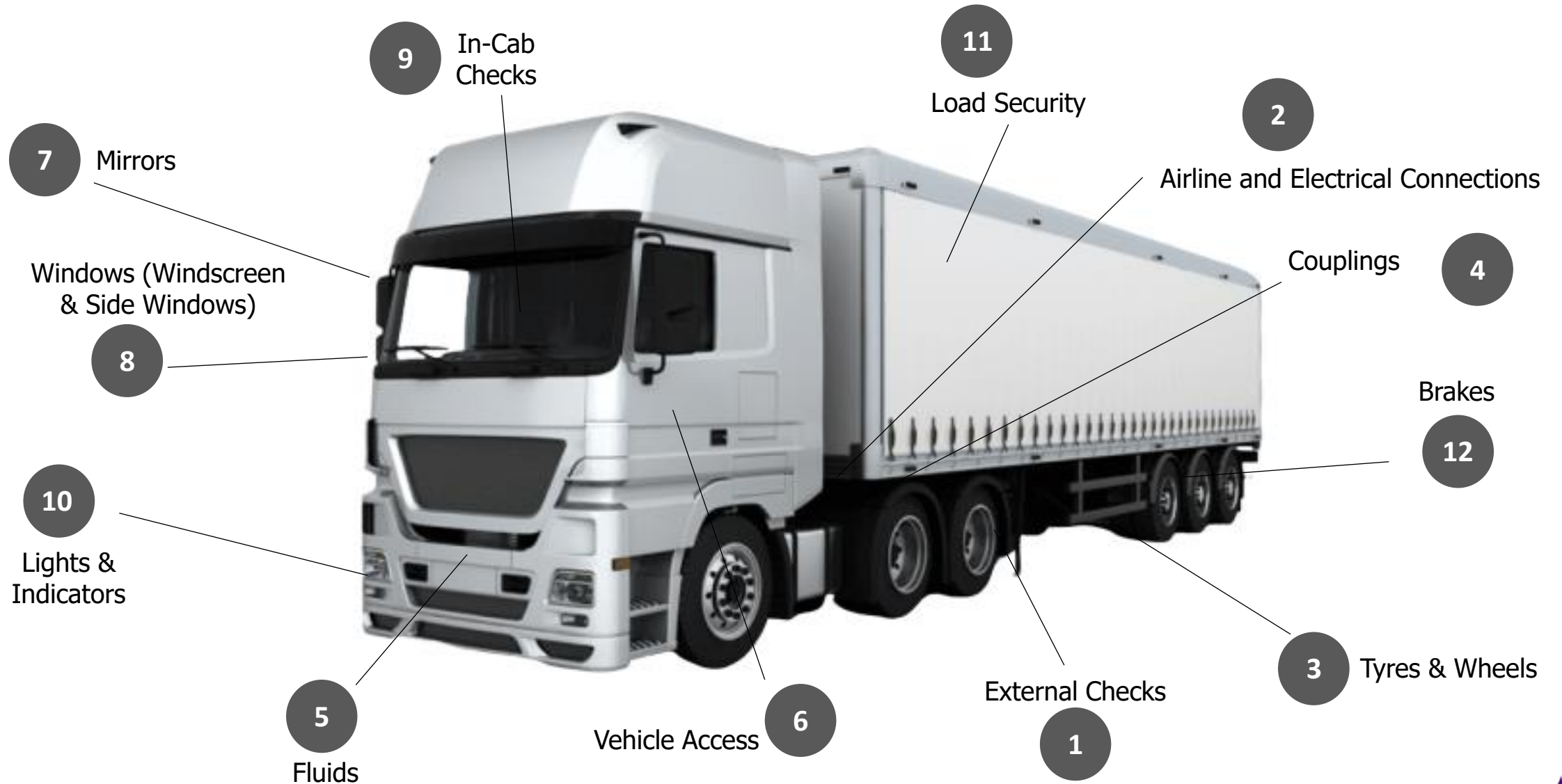
It is important to abide by the manufacturer's maintenance guidelines specific to the environment the vehicle is operating in.

Though it is considered an expense, vehicle maintenance should be a necessity for all vehicle owners as it ensures the vehicle's safety and roadworthiness. Owners should ensure that drivers are trained to carry out Pre-Use Checks and understand the process for reporting any defects. Owners should also ensure that drivers are aware that they should not operate a vehicle which is unsafe.



Maintenance	Timing
Maintenance Schedule	As per the Manufacturer's Recommendation
Pre - Use Checks	Every day or before each use.

# 12 – Point Heavy Vehicle Safety Check





## 1- External Checks

**Always** begin with a visual check of the vehicle to ensure it is safe to approach and to identify any potential hazards. Ensure that the engine is switched off, keys have been removed from the ignition and the parking brakes have been applied.

- Landing legs fully raised & handle in position,
- Check underneath the vehicle to make sure there are no unsecured items or anything hanging down,
- Check vehicle sitting square & not leaning to one side,
- Check for sounds of air leaks or drop in air pressure,
- Trailer park brake operates correctly & releases when off,
- Fuel tank cap in good condition & there are no leaks,
- Number & marker plates in place, clean & in good condition,
- Side & rear reflective markings fitted, clean & in good condition.



## 2- Air supply line and Electrical connections



The airlines from the tow tractor to the trailer supply air to both the brakes and the suspension. The electrical lines provide power to brake, indicators and running lights. During the Pre-Use Checks, always ensure that these essential lines are clearly marked in the appropriate colour, in good condition and connected before driving. Make sure there are no air leaks from connectors and that only approved connectors are used. It is prohibited to use hydraulic connectors on vehicle air supply lines. ABS/EBS cable should be connected where fitted.

## 3- Tyres & Wheels

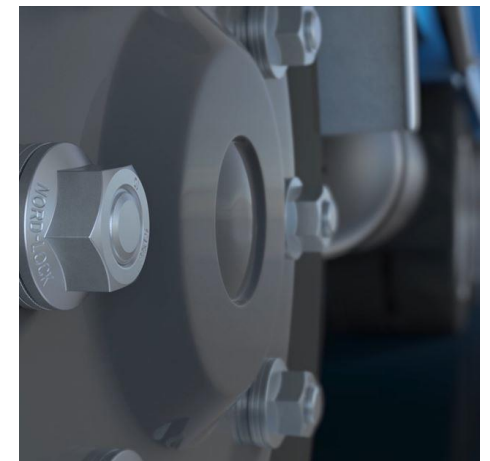
Whilst the tyres should be checked during the Manufacturer's Recommended Maintenance Schedule, it is important to also check during the Pre-Use Checks.

**Inflation** - Are the tyres inflated to the correct pressure?

**Tread** - Is there a minimum tread depth of 2 mm across the width of tyre and around the entire circumference? Is the surface even without any bumps or deformation?

**Sidewalls** - Are there any cuts, cracks or bulges?

**Wheels** - Are all the wheel nuts in place and secure? Are there any cracks or damages on the wheels?





## 4- Couplings

Couplings can get worn out and become defective. Always check the coupling in the Pre-Use Check. **Semi-Trailers** - Check that the trailer fifth wheel pin is correctly located in the fifth wheel jaws and that the locking handle is in the fully locked position. Check that the security locking mechanism or chain is secured to the handle.

**Drawbar Trailers** – Check that the drawbar coupling is in good condition and the safety mechanism is locked and secured.

## 6- Vehicle Access

Before entering the cab, the Pre-Use Checks should include checking that the steps are secure and in good condition with an anti-slip surface. Check the handrails are secure and clean from oil or grease.

There should be safe access to the catwalk (air supply lines and electrical lines) and load area.

When entering and exiting the vehicle always maintain three points of contact.



## 5- Fluids

During the Pre-Use Checks and before starting the engine check engine oil, coolant and windscreen washer fluid levels.

Also check for leaks around the coolant system, radiator and oil cooler, and remember to check under the front of the vehicle for any fluid staining.

**ENTERING**



**EXITING**



## 7- Mirrors



**Driver's Side**



**Passenger Side**

Once inside the cab the Pre-Use Check continues with a check to ensure your mirrors are clean and correctly adjusted.

## 8- Windscreen & Side Windows

Check that the windscreen and side windows clean, clear and free of any damage or items such as stickers, pennants or hanging items, which could restrict or impair the driver's view.



## 9- In Cab Checks

Check the driving controls (steering, gear selector, hand brake, foot pedals), seat position and seat belt are functioning correctly and adjusted for comfort and reach. Start the vehicle engine and check the instruments, gauges and warning devices are working.

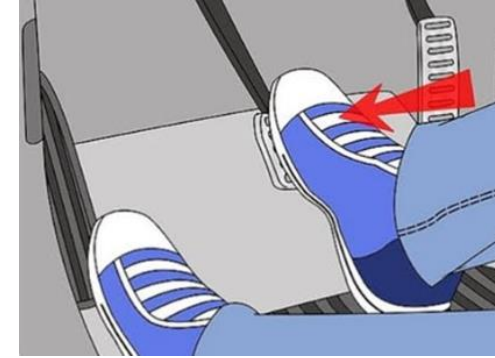
Check windscreen wipers and washers are operating correctly.



## 10- Brakes

For the brakes to operate there must be sufficient air pressure in the system. The Pre-Use Check includes checking the air pressure gauges on the dashboard (including secondary gauge/pressure for trailer) and also ensuring the LOW AIR PRESSURE

WARNING Light has gone out and any audible alarms have stopped. Press and hold the brake pedal firmly and listen for any air leaks ensuring the pedal pressure remains firm. Check your surroundings and, if clear select a gear. Then without releasing the hand brake gently attempt to move the truck. It should not move. Now release the handbrake and move the truck about 2 metres, then apply the foot brake to test. Apply the hand brake and take the vehicle out of gear.

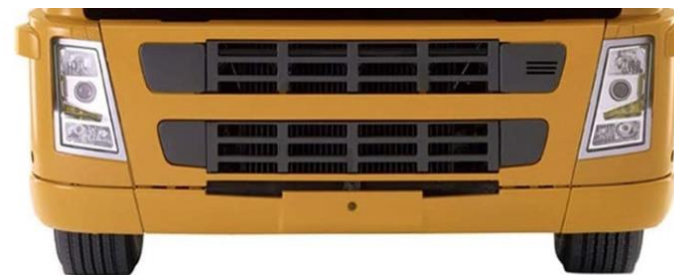
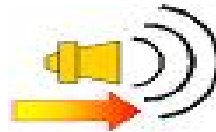


**ALWAYS CHECK YOUR SURROUNDINGS BEFORE MOVING THE VEHICLE.**

**NEVER MANOEUVRE A VEHICLE WITHOUT A BANKSMAN**

## 11- Lights, indicators & alarms

Select reverse gear and check that the reversing alarm is working. Check all lights are working and lenses are clean and free from damage.





## 12- Load Security

If loaded, check that the load is adequately secured, and the load has not shifted or can shift. Check the height of load on any documentation and ensure it does not exceed the height limitation of the route.

If not loaded, check load securing devices are in good condition and not damaged or broken.

If transporting pipes or tubulars, check the U-Frames are not damaged including friction material (rubber or wood).

If transporting containers, check twist locks are operating correctly and not damaged or seized.



**Drivers** - carry out your Pre-Use Checks – report all defects and faults to a supervisor/manager for repair.  
Do NOT operate any vehicle with a fault or defect.

**Supervisors and managers** - ensure that daily checks are carried out by the driver and if a fault is reported - take the vehicle out of service and have it repaired. Ensure that Scheduled and Preventative Maintenance are conducted to keep vehicles operating safely.

*If you have any questions or require any additional information or guidance please contact the ROO Land Transport Safety Team on [ROOHSELTA@roobasra.com](mailto:ROOHSELTA@roobasra.com)*