

In-Cab Defense Driving Evaluation Checklist



RISK ENGINEERING – YOUR BUSINESS INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

Driver's Name _____ Location _____

License No. _____ State _____ Truck/Tractor # _____ Trailer # _____

Checked from _____ to _____ Date _____

Pre-trip inspection

The driver should be able to demonstrate that he can perform a thorough pre-trip inspection of the vehicle. Observe if the driver has a pattern to his inspection so he does it the same way every time. Does he check the condition of the vehicle, all the fluid levels and safety equipment?

☐ Satisfactory ☐ Unsatisfactory

Observe if the driver consistently performs or can explain the following defensive driving concepts:

Highway Driving:

YES NO

Merging onto the highway

- Following distance adequate on acceleration ramp? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Accelerates to highway speed before merging? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Checks mirrors and over the shoulder before merging? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver demonstrate or explain the 15-second eye lead-time? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver identify or define the "lane of least resistance?" ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver explain:

- Emergency lane changes? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Convenience lane changes? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Does the driver check his mirrors every five to eight seconds? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver identify the poor driving habits of other drivers? ☐ YES ☐ NO

City Driving:

YES NO

Can the driver explain what he is looking for in a parked vehicle? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver explain or demonstrate the technique of "covering the brake?" ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver explain or demonstrate "obtaining eye contact?" ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver explain some of the reasons for slowing or braking early? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver identify the appropriate following distance for the type of vehicle being driven? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver explain the concept of how adequate following distance is determined? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver demonstrate or explain the proper procedures to handle a tailgater? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver identify packs or clusters of traffic? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Does the driver attempt to maintain a cushion of safety around the vehicle? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver explain why he should check his mirrors when braking? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver demonstrate the technique of "pacing the lights?" ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver explain the concept of "stale and fresh lights," and the procedures to follow when encountering one? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver define and demonstrate the "point of no return" at an intersection? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can the driver explain where he would steer in an emergency situation, and why? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Continued on back

Intersections:**YES NO**

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Can the driver explain why it is a good practice to stop one car length behind the crosswalk? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can the driver point out and define tire to ground contact? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can the driver explain and demonstrate leaving one car length between vehicles at a stopped position? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the driver avoid backing up in traffic? Can the driver explain why the light isn't considered green until the brake lights go out and the vehicle ahead starts to roll? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the driver attempt to maintain a cushion of safety around the vehicle? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can the driver explain why he should check his mirrors when braking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can the driver demonstrate the technique of "pacing the lights?" | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can the driver explain the concept of "stale and fresh lights," and the procedures to follow when encountering one? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can the driver define and demonstrate the "point of no return" at an intersection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can the driver explain where he would steer in an emergency situation, and why? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| When stopped at a light does the driver allow the vehicle ahead to move for several seconds before accelerating? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can the driver discuss the importance of scanning the intersection before entry? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Backing:**YES NO**

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Does the driver look for a way to make the delivery without backing? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If necessary, does the driver get out of the cab and physically check the area for obstacles, including those overhead? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the driver position his vehicle to perform a straight line backing maneuver whenever possible? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| When straight line backing is not possible, does the driver back from the driver's side? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the driver put on his four-way flashers, shut off the radio, and roll down the window when backing? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the driver use a helper when available? Does the driver and helper agree on hand signals before backing begins? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| When backing, does the driver stop and get out of the cab to recheck the area behind him? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Comments _____

Driver's Signature**Evaluator's Signature**

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