Truck Pre-Start Checklist

Driver: _____ Unit / rego: _____ Date: _____ Start time: _____ Odometer / hours: _____

Tick OK or Fault for each item. Record any fault in the notes and report it before driving. **Do not drive with a safety-critical fault** (brakes, steering, tyres, couplings, lights). The daily check counts as work time: record it in your work diary.

Walk-around (engine off)	OK	Fault	Notes
Tyres: inflation, tread depth (min 1.5 mm), cuts, bulges, objects between duals			
Wheel nuts present and tight, nut indicators aligned; no rust trails			
Leaks under the vehicle: oil, fuel, coolant, air			
Lights and reflectors clean, lenses intact			
Mirrors secure, clean and not cracked			
Windscreen: no cracks in the driver's view; wipers in good condition			
Number plates secure and readable			
Body, doors, gates and mudguards secure			
Load secure and restraints in good condition (if loaded)			

Under the bonnet / fluids	OK	Fault	Notes
Engine oil level			
Coolant level			
Power steering and other fluid levels			
Belts and hoses: no cracks, fraying or leaks			
AdBlue / DEF level (if fitted)			

In the cab (engine running)	OK	Fault	Notes
Air pressure builds up normally; low-air warning works			
Service brake, park brake and trailer brake work			
Steering: no excessive free play			
Horn, wipers and washers work			
All lights work: head, tail, brake, indicators, hazards, markers			
Gauges and warning lights normal; no fault codes			
Seatbelt latches and retracts			
Fire extinguisher, first aid kit and warning triangles on board			
Work diary / EWD logged in, and you are fit to drive			

Coupling (if towing)	OK	Fault	Notes
Fifth wheel jaws locked; no gap between fifth wheel and skid plate			
Kingpin / drawbar and safety chains secure			
Air and electrical connections secure, no leaks			
Trailer landing legs fully raised, handle stowed			
Trailer lights and brakes work			

Faults found / action taken:

_____

Driver signature: _____ Reported to: _____ Time: _____

Add-on checks by vehicle type

Use the relevant section below as well as the main truck pre-start checklist.

Tipper truck	OK	Fault	Notes
Hoist and ram: no hydraulic leaks, hoses not chafed			
Body lowers fully and sits on the chassis; body-up warning works			
Tailgate hinges, pins and locks secure; tailgate opens and closes properly			
PTO engages and disengages correctly			
Tarp or cover and its arms in good condition			
Body prop / safety stay present and working			
Hydraulic oil level			

Water truck	OK	Fault	Notes
Tank: no leaks, cracks or loose mountings; baffles intact			
Pump and PTO operate correctly; no leaks			
Spray bars, nozzles and cannon clear and secure			
Valves and controls operate from the cab			
Hoses and fittings in good condition			
Rear-view / reversing camera clean and working			
Load gauge reading and level (water is a moving load: allow for slosh)			

Prime mover with trailer	OK	Fault	Notes
All trailer tyres and wheel nuts checked as for the truck			
Trailer suzies supported, not dragging			
Trailer doors, gates, curtains and buckles secure			
Trailer registration label and plate present			
Dolly / converter coupling secure (if road train or B-double)			

Rather do it on a phone? In the MV Driver app, drivers complete their pre-start, record the odometer and report faults with photos. The workshop sees defects straight away, and every check is stored for audits. managevehicle.com