

## Making heavy vehicle fleet management easy for you

# REAL June 2021 Torque

Contact maintenance for any questions on 0800 80 80 69

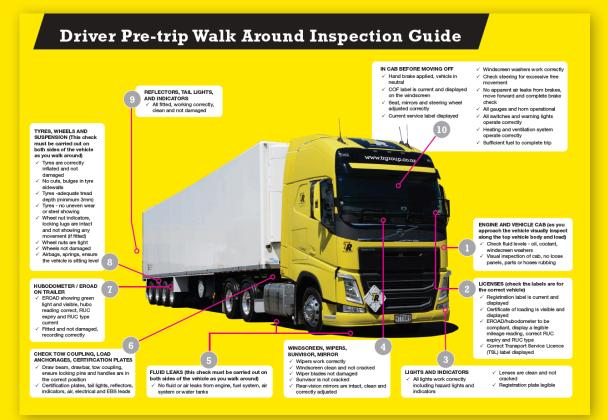
### Pre-start vehicle inspection.

A pre-start check on a heavy vehicle is very important. As a driver, you have a responsibility to check that it is safe and compliant to be out on the road and the pre-start check goes a long way to meeting that responsibility. Any safety or compliance issues must be addressed before you take to the road.

The pre-start check will provide the info you need to plan any upcoming maintenance, such as servicing, COF expiry date, current RUC status, permit requirements, tyre replacements, etc. This is

where preventative maintenance starts and helps keep the vehicle safe, reliable, and compliant. The reasons for having a healthy vehicle should be obvious. It ensures the safety of not just the driver, but also everyone else on the road.

Did you know the TR Group logbook has excellent information on how best to do the pre-start check as shown below?



This 10 point walk around will only take about 5 minutes.

When checking lights, did you know that on some later model trucks the lights can be checked by using the door lock remote – that's pretty cool!

A common thing to cause issues at roadside inspections is loose body mount bolts, so keeping an eye on them would be worthwhile.

Having a completed pre-start check sheet is helpful for roadside inspections to show you are doing what is required to ensure all is in order.

Taking the time to check rust marks, interference between panels, rub marks where there should not be any, items that appear misaligned are all indicators that things are not as they should be and are worth getting checked out. These are the things to look out for that will ultimately keep a vehicle reliable and on the road.

#### Checking the air system.

Before heading off, ensure the air system is fully charged and the air suspension is fully inflated. This is very important, especially on vehicles with air suspension dump valves. Driving with the air suspension deflated can easily damage the drive line components, tyres, Guards etc.

Be aware that bottom dumpers can take a long time to build up their air system as they have extra air tanks, so patience is required here.



#### Checking the wheel nuts.



If there is a red wheel nut indicator on the outside of the yellow indicator then a retorque is required. Any misalignment of the wheel nut indicators also mean wheel nuts are potentially loose and must be checked



Failure to check your wheel nuts may mean a failure such as this.





A red indicator over the top of a yellow indicator, or even on its own, indicates a wheel requires a retorque.

#### **Tips and Tricks**





- Use your instinct if it doesn't feel right, stop and take a look at it.
- ► Lights and wipers it goes without saying but these are critical, especially in the rain and when driving at night.
- Oil and water coolant levels are critical components to ensure are at the right levels.
- Take the time to understand your vehicles maximum capabilities – understand load certificates, load anchorage and certification plates.

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