

THE TOP 50 MOST COMMON

PASSENGER VEHICLES QUESTIONS

Lose the fear of the unknown. Study the most common CDL passenger vehicles questions so you'll know what to expect on the big test day.





Please do not try to take these documents into the knowledge exam room to cheat with

The term “**cheat sheet**” used to mean a sheet of notes that you kept with you to cheat on an exam. Today, it has also come to mean a quick reference or ready reference of the most important or frequently used items. That’s how we intend our “cheat sheets” to be used: As quick references for you to browse to help you study for your written knowledge test.

1. As part of your vehicle inspection test, you will have to check _____ to be sure that it is undamaged, operating smoothly, and able to be closed securely from the inside.

- ✓ an emergency exit

As part of your vehicle inspection test, you will have to check one emergency exit to be sure that it is undamaged, operating smoothly, and able to be closed securely from the inside. You will also have to point out the other emergency exits and describe how they operate.

2. At a drawbridge that lacks a signal light or traffic control attendant, you must stop at least _____ from the draw of the bridge.

- ✓ 50 feet

When you approach a drawbridge without a signal light or traffic control attendant, you must stop at least 50 feet before the draw of the bridge to make sure that the drawbridge is closed and safe to cross.

3. Before you start to drive, you must inspect

- ✓ the steering mechanism, the parking brake and the windshield wipers.

Before you start to drive, you must check all the critical systems such as steering, brakes, tires, and emergency equipment to be sure they work properly. For the passengers' safety, you must also check such interior items as seats, handholds, railings, signaling devices, and emergency exits. FM or DVD music is nice, but you can safely drive your passengers to their destinations without it.

4. Before you start to drive, make sure that carry-on baggage is NOT

- ✓ in the aisles.

Carry-on baggage must not be left in doorways or aisles because someone could trip over it or it could block the way to an emergency exit. Carry-on luggage must be stowed so it can't restrict the driver's movements or injure passengers if it falls or shifts.

5. _____ must be closed when the bus is in motion.

- ✓ The emergency window

Emergency exit windows and doors must be closed while the bus is being driven.

6. Before leaving your stop, you should

- ✓ wait for a sufficient gap in traffic.

Know how big a gap in traffic your bus needs to merge into traffic. Before you can pull out of a bus stop, you must wait for a large enough gap in traffic. Never assume that other drivers will brake to let you into traffic.

7. Bus accidents often happen

- ✓ at intersections.

Bus accidents often happen at intersections, where there are many drivers and pedestrians doing different things. Use caution at intersections even if there are signs or signals that are supposed to control traffic. Also use caution at railroad crossings. You are required to stop at railroad crossings.

8. Buses may carry

- ✓ small-arms ammunition labeled "Limited Quantity" (formerly ORM-D).

Buses may carry small-arms ammunition labeled "Limited Quantity" (formerly ORM-D, consumer-grade hazmat), emergency hospital supplies, and drugs. Buses may carry small amounts of some other hazardous materials if the shipper cannot send them any other way. Buses may not carry more than 100 pounds of any class or more than 500 pounds total.

9. Buses may have recapped or regrooved tires

- ✓ anywhere except the front wheels.

Federal regulations prohibit the use of recapped, regrooved, or retreaded tires on the front wheels. A tire failure on the steering axle is more likely to result in loss of control than a tire failure elsewhere. [49 CFR 393.75]

10. Can a bus carry 100 pounds each of class 1, class 3, class 4, and class 5 hazardous materials?

- ✓ Yes.

Passenger buses can carry up to 100 pounds of each class of hazardous materials and up to 500 pounds total. However, there are some exceptions. Division 2.3 (poison gas) and liquid Class 6 (poison) cannot be carried in any amounts. Explosives and radioactives cannot be carried in the passenger area.

11. Federal regulations prohibit the driver behind the wheel if

- ✓ the driver is ill or impaired, and the condition interferes with the ability to drive safely.

Federal regulations prohibit the driver to drive when s/he is ill or impaired, and the condition interferes with the ability to drive safely.

12. During your pre-trip inspection, you should sign the previous driver's report only if

- ✓ the defects listed on it have been certified as either repaired or not needing to be repaired.

Don't sign a previous driver's inspection report unless the defects listed on it have been certified as either repaired or not needing to be repaired. You will, of course, perform your own pre-trip inspection.

13. If you are performing your vehicle inspection test on a coach or transit bus, you will have to inspect the baggage compartments and make sure that the baggage compartment _____ doors securely.

- ✓ latch

If you are performing your vehicle inspection test on a coach or transit bus, you will have to inspect the baggage compartments. Check that the baggage compartment doors are undamaged, operate properly, and latch securely.

14. Charter bus drivers should

- ✓ remind riders to take carry-ons with them whenever they get off the bus.

Once you've arrived at a bus stop, announce the location and bus number. If the aisle is on a lower level than the seats, remind disembarking passengers to watch their step. Also remind disembarking passengers to take all their carry-on luggage and other personal effects with them as they get off the bus.

15. If a rider wants to bring a car battery or a can of gasoline or kerosene aboard your bus, you should

- ✓ not allow the rider to do it.

Buses are allowed to carry small amounts (up to a total of 500 pounds) of certain hazardous materials. But not battery acid or gasoline.

16. If there is no traffic light or attendant, how far from the draw of a drawbridge must you stop?

- ✓ 50 feet.

At drawbridges without a traffic attendant or light signal, you must stop at least 50 feet before the draw of the bridge. If there is a green light or a traffic attendant present, you don't have to stop, but you must slow down and make sure that the drawbridge is closed and safe to drive on before you proceed across it.

17. If you are carrying allowed hazardous materials on the bus, they must be

- ✓ properly labeled.

The rules require shippers to mark containers of hazardous materials with the material's name, identification number, and a hazard label.

18. If your bus has an emergency exit door,

- ✓ it must be closed whenever the bus is in motion.

Emergency exits must be closed whenever the bus is in motion. If an emergency exit has a red emergency exit light, it should be turned on whenever conditions require you to turn on your headlights.

19. If your bus starts to lean toward the outside on a banked curve,

- ✓ you are driving too fast.

If your bus is leaning toward the outside of a banked curve, you are driving too fast and should slow down before your bus rolls over or starts to skid. The posted speed limit is safe for cars but not necessarily safe for large vehicles like buses.

20. Never refuel your bus

- ✓ in a closed building with passengers on board.

Avoid fueling your bus with riders on board unless it is absolutely necessary. Never refuel in a closed building with riders on board.

21. On a bus, you may sometimes haul small-arms ammunition, emergency shipments of drugs, or hospital supplies. The total weight of all such hazardous materials must not be greater than

- ✓ 500 pounds.

Buses may carry small amounts of certain hazardous materials such as small-arms ammunition and consumer commodities labeled "Limited Quantity" (formerly ORM-D, limited hazard). Buses may not carry more than 100 pounds of any class or more than 500 pounds total.

22. The traffic light on a drawbridge is green. You should

- ✓ slow down and make sure it's safe to proceed.

You don't have to stop at a drawbridge if you have a green light or there is an attendant or traffic officer present. However, you should still slow down and make sure that the drawbridge is closed and safe to drive on before you proceed across it.

23. On an urban mass transit coach, the interlock system for the brake and accelerator is used

- ✓ as a safety feature when the rear door is open.

Mass transit coaches may have a brake-door interlock system. Its purpose is to apply the brakes and keep the engine idling whenever the rear door is open. The interlock releases when you close the rear door. Note: On a bus with a brake-door interlock, opening the rear door is NOT a substitute for applying the parking brake!

24. The posted speed on a curve is

- ✓ safe for cars in good weather.

Each curve has a safe "design speed," which is its safe speed for cars in good weather. However, at that speed, a bus is more prone to rolling over. And it may not be safe for any vehicles to travel at that speed in bad weather. In particular, a bus could go sliding right off the road. For safety on curves, slow down below the posted speed. If your bus is leaning outward on a banked curve, you are driving too fast.

25. To prevent theft and vandalism on a charter bus,

- ✓ do not allow riders on the bus until departure time.

To help prevent theft or vandalism of the bus, charter bus drivers should not allow passengers to board the bus until departure time.

26. When changing lanes, the driver may cancel the turn signal

- ✓ after completing a lane change.

The driver must start signaling before changing lanes and cancel the turn signal when the maneuver is complete.

27. To obtain a passenger (P) endorsement, you must pass a knowledge test on

- ✓ driving safely and transporting passengers safely.

You must have a passenger (P) endorsement on your CDL to drive a vehicle with 16 or more occupants including yourself. To obtain this endorsement, you must meet several requirements including passing a knowledge test and a skills test in a vehicle that is representative of the class of vehicle you will be driving professionally. The knowledge test covers safe commercial driving and safe transportation of passengers. These subjects are covered in chapters 2 and 4 of the official state CDL manual. Note: If you plan to drive buses with air brakes, you must also pass a separate knowledge test and skills test on air brakes. Otherwise your CDL will include a restriction prohibiting you from operating vehicles with air brakes.

28. Buses are allowed to carry up to 100 pounds of _____ in the passenger area.

- ✓ small-arms ammunition

Passenger buses can carry up to 100 pounds of certain hazardous materials, such as small-arms ammunition labeled "Limited Quantity," emergency hospital supplies, and drugs. However, there are some exceptions. Division 2.3 (poison gases) and liquid Class 6 (poisons) cannot be carried in any amounts. Class 1 (explosives) and Class 7 (labeled radioactives) cannot be carried in the passenger area.

29. What is the standee line?

- ✓ A two-inch line on the floor that all passengers must stay behind.

Buses that allow passengers to stand must have some way to show passengers that they must stand behind the driver. This can be a two-inch-wide line (called the standee line) on the floor behind the driver's seat.

30. What type of cargo must never be carried on a bus with passengers?

- ✓ Tear gas.

Buses may carry small amounts of certain hazardous materials such as small-arms ammunition and consumer commodities labeled "Limited Quantity" (formerly ORM-D, limited hazard), emergency hospital supplies, and drugs. Buses are prohibited from carrying chemical weapons such as tear gases or poison gases.

31. When must you complete an inspection report?

- ✓ At the end of your shift.

If you work for an interstate carrier, you must complete a post-trip vehicle inspection report for each vehicle you drove during your shift. Note any safety-related problems that you found while driving the vehicle and repairs that you believe are needed. The inspection report will let the next driver know if there are safety-related problems. It will also let the carrier know if safety-related repairs are needed. Federal regulations require an inspection report be completed by the end of the day's use of the vehicle. [49 CFR 396.11]

32. What emergency equipment must you have on your bus?

- ✓ Fire extinguisher, spare electric fuses, and reflectors.

Every bus is required by law to carry a fire extinguisher and emergency warning devices. It must also carry spare electrical fuses unless it uses circuit breakers.

33. When stopping for railroad tracks, you must stop no closer than how many feet before the nearest track?

- ✓ 15.

You must stop between 15 and 50 feet from the nearest rail at a railroad crossing.

34. What's the connection between the speed and braking time?

- ✓ Your stopping distance quadruples if you double your speed.

You need about four times as much stopping distance when travelling at 40 mph compared to 20 mph.

35. When are you allowed to drive with your emergency door open?

- ✓ Never.

Never drive with an open emergency exit door or window. Keep it closed for your passengers' safety.

36. When transporting passengers on charter or intercity buses, you should explain passenger comfort and safety rules

- ✓ before the trip.

Many charter and intercity carriers have passenger comfort and safety rules. At the start of the trip, tell the passengers about the rules on smoking, drinking, or use of personal electronic devices. Explaining the rules at the start will help avoid trouble later on. While driving, keep an eye on the passengers. Remind them if you see them breaking the rules.

37. When entering an expressway,

- ✓ check expressway traffic, signal, and merge smoothly into traffic.

To enter an expressway, perform the following steps: 1. Check for traffic. 2. Use the proper signals. 3. Merge smoothly into the proper lane of traffic.

38. When is it best to wear your seat belt?

- ✓ Always.

Always wear your seat belt whenever your bus is in motion. In the event of a crash, your seat belt will keep you from being badly injured or thrown out of your seat, which would result in your losing control of your vehicle.

39. When pulling out of a stop

- ✓ remember the clearance your bus needs and watch for poles and tree branches.

School and mass transit buses sometimes scrape off mirrors or hit passing vehicles when pulling out from a bus stop. Remember the clearance your bus needs, and watch for poles and tree limbs at stops. Know the size of the gap your bus needs to accelerate and merge with traffic and wait for the gap to open before leaving the stop. Never assume other drivers will brake to give you room when you signal or start to pull out.

40. When stopping on the road to load or unload passengers, you should

- ✓ flash your brake lights to let the drivers behind you know that you are stopping.

Bus drivers sometimes stop on the roadway to unload passengers, or to stop at a railroad crossing. Warn following drivers by flashing your brake lights. Do not stop suddenly.

41. When you discharge an unruly passenger, you must choose a place that is

- ✓ as safe as possible, or the next stop.

A drunk or disorderly passenger may be discharged from the bus, but only at the next scheduled stop or a well-lit area with other people for the passenger's safety.

42. Which seats must be equipped with a seat belt?

- ✓ The driver's seat

The driver's seat in every bus must be equipped with a seat belt in good working order. Always wear your seat belt whenever your bus is in motion. In the event of a crash, your seat belt will keep you from being badly injured or thrown out of your seat, which would result in your losing control of your vehicle.

43. You do not have to stop _____, but you must slow down and check for other vehicles.

- ✓ at a streetcar crossing

You must stop at a red light, a stop sign, a railroad crossing, or whenever a flagperson (flagger) signals you to stop. At a streetcar crossing, at a crossing marked as "exempt" or "abandoned," or wherever a police officer or flagger is signaling you to proceed, slow down and carefully check for other vehicles.

44. You are driving a 40-foot bus at 50 mph. The road conditions and the visibility are good. You should keep at least _____ seconds between you and a vehicle ahead to be safe.

- ✓ 5

To determine the following distance for your vehicle, add 1 second for every 10 feet of vehicle length at speeds under 40 mph. Above 40 mph use the same formula, then add 1 second for the additional speed.

45. You must be alert for road hazards so that

- ✓ you will have time to plan your escape if the hazard becomes an emergency.

A hazard is not an emergency - but it can become one. Always scan the road ahead, looking for common types of hazards such as work zones, emergency vehicles parked on the side of the road, and foreign objects lying on the road. The sooner you spot a hazard, the more time you will have to plan how to deal with it before it becomes an actual emergency.

46. You must not allow riders to stand

- ✓ in front of the standee line.

Buses that allow passengers to stand must have some way to show passengers that they must stand behind the driver. This can be a two-inch-wide line (called the standee line) on the floor behind the driver's seat.

47. You can adjust the driver's seat

- ✓ only when the bus is stopped.

Once you start to drive, give your driving your undivided attention. Adjust your mirrors, seat, radio, etc., before you start driving or when the bus is stopped.

48. While crossing railroad tracks, you should _____ if your bus has a manual transmission.

- ✓ not shift gears.

If your bus has a manual transmission, do not shift gears while crossing a raised railroad crossing. Shifting gears on a raised railroad crossing increases the chance that your vehicle will stall and get stuck on the tracks.

49. You must have a CDL with a passenger (P) endorsement to drive a bus that seats _____ or more people including yourself.

- ✓ 16

To drive a vehicle with 16 or more occupants, including yourself, you must have a CDL with a passenger (P) endorsement.

50. Your bus is disabled. With riders aboard, the bus may be towed or pushed to a safe place only

- ✓ if getting off the bus would be more risky for the riders.

Passengers should not be aboard a bus while it is being towed unless it would be more dangerous for them to exit the vehicle. Passengers can remain aboard the bus only until it is towed or pushed to the nearest safe location.