

# **SHERMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SVFD DRIVER TRAINING INFORMATION**

The State of Connecticut requires any member operating a vehicle over 26,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight (GVW) to have at the minimum a “Q” endorsement on their motor vehicle license. To obtain the “Q” endorsement one must pass a practical test administered by a Connecticut DMV inspector.

The practical test includes the following areas which will be performed using Engine 2:

- Pre-trip inspection (inspection of the equipment on the vehicle)
- Static test (maneuvering the vehicle over a fixed course)
- Behind the wheel performance evaluation (road test)

## **PRE-TRIP INSPECTION**

You are expected to perform a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle to be used for the driving test during which you will explain to the examiner what is being inspected.

PURPOSE: To see if you know if the vehicle is safe to drive

### **7 STEP INSPECTION METHOD**

#### **GENERAL CONDITION OF THE VEHICLE**

Look for:

Fresh oil

Coolant

Grease

Fuel leaks

Vehicle leaning to one side

Check the area around the vehicle for (people, other vehicles, objects, wires, limbs)

#### **Review Last Vehicle Inspection Report**

Look for:

Repair items

## Check Emergency Equipment

Look for:

Circuit breakers/electrical fuses

Reflective triangles/road flares

Properly charged fire extinguisher (B:C)

First Aid Kit

## Check Engine Compartment

NOTE: PARKING BRAKES APPLIED AND/OR WHEELS CHOCKED AND IGNITION KEY IN POCKET

You may have to raise the hood (forward cab) and check the following:

Engine oil level

Coolant level and condition of hoses

Power steering fluid level; hose condition

Windshield washer fluid (passenger side)

Battery fluid level; connections and tie-downs (both sides of vehicle behind cab)

Automatic transmission fluid (right side door at mid point on the engine)

Check belts for alternator, water pump and air compressor

Leaks in the engine compartment

Cracked, worn electrical insulation

Lower and secure the engine hood

## Get in and Start the Engine

Make sure the parking brake is ON

Put the gearshift in neutral

Turn ignition key "ON" and check warning lights and buzzers (such as brakes, oil, coolant, warning lights)

Start engine and listen for anything unusual

Look at gauges:

Oil pressure (what's normal) (40 psi)

Voltmeter in the normal range

Coolant temperature should rise to normal

Engine oil temperature should rise to normal

Warning lights and buzzers should go out right away

Check mirrors and windshield

## Checking AIR BRAKES

With engine running check that air pressure is building to normal level

SHUT OFF ENGINE

Press service brake and hold down for approximately 60 seconds

Check for leaks (loss of pressure)

Then proceed to pump down the air pressure and look for:

Low air pressure alarm at 60 psi and maxi brake pop at 40 psi

START ENGINE

Press accelerator to get engine RPM to 1000-1200 to build air pressure

Check to see that the governor on the air compressor cuts out at 120 psi

REMOVE CHOCKS

Test MAXI-BRAKE by slowly accelerating against it.

Release MAXI-BRAKE and accelerate to 5 MPH and hit the service brake

Check for any pulling to one side

## ENGINE RUNNING and SERVICE BRAKE APPLIED

Run through all gears and check for back-up alarm in reverse

Check wheel lash (both ways)

Check horn (both)

Check wipers and washer

Check mirrors

Check hazard flashers

Check LEFT and RIGHT directionals

Check emergency lights

Check defroster

MAXI-BRAKE ON

TURN OFF ENGINE

NOTE: remove ignition key and place in pocket

Turn on the headlights (high beams)

Turn on the left turn signal

## LEFT CIRCLE CHECK

### FRONT

- Headlights
- Clearance lights and reflectors
- Left turn signal
- Condition of front axle
- Condition of steering system
- No loose, worn, bent or missing parts
- Must grab steering mechanism to test for looseness
- Condition of windshield
- Check for damage and ensure it's clean
- Check windshield wiper arms and proper spring tension
- Check wiper blades for damage or wear

### LEFT FRONT SIDE

- Driver's door glass should be clean
- Door latches and/locks work properly
- Battery/battery box secure
- Battery not broken/leaking/cell caps tight
- Left front wheel
  - Condition of wheel and rim (bent/broken studs, clamps, lugs, alignment)
  - Condition of tires (proper inflation, no cuts/bulges/tread wear, cap/valve)
  - Check lug nuts for looseness
  - Hub oil levels OK no leaks
- Left front suspension
  - Condition of springs, spring hangers, shackles, U-bolts
  - Shock absorber condition
- Left front brake
  - Condition of brake drum
  - Condition of hoses

### LEFT REAR SIDE

- Left rear signal
- Lights and reflectors clean and operational
- License plate present, clean and secure
- Side compartment doors securely closed and latched
  - Rear compartment doors securely closed and latched
- Check fuel tank (left side)
  - No damage or leaks
  - Fuel cap/lines OK/sufficient fuel

## **RIGHT CIRCLE CHECK**

Go to the cab and dim the headlights and switch the right turn signal on  
RIGHT FRONT SIDE

Check all the items done on the left front side

Primary and secondary cab locks (cab over design)

Condition of visible parts

Engine not leaking

Transmission not leaking

Exhaust system – secure, not leaking, not touching wires/fuel or air lines

Frame and cross members – no bends or cracks

Air lines and electrical – secure, no rubbing or wear

Spare tire carrier

Spare tire securely mounted

Spare tire proper size and inflation

Right side compartment doors securely closed and latched

Check battery/battery box secure

Battery not broken/leaking/cell caps tight

## **RIGHT REAR**

Lights and reflectors

Rear clearance and identification lights clean and operational

Reflectors clean and proper color

Taillights clean, operational and proper color

Right turn signal operating and proper color

License plate present, clean and secure

Splash guards present and not damaged

Rear doors securely closed and latched

## **GENERAL**

Walk around the vehicle and inspect

Clean all lights, reflectors and glass as you go

Brakes

Condition of brake drum

Condition of hoses

Lights and reflectors

Side marker reflectors clean and proper color

Side marker lights clean, operational and proper color

ALL lights and reflectors

Check cleanliness, color and that they are operational

**THIS CONCLUDES THE PRE-TRIP INSPECTION**

ANY QUESTIONS SEE FREDDY OR MARK

MH/06