

Section 12

Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

This Section Covers

- Skills Test Exercises
- Skills Test Scoring

Your basic control skills could be tested using one or more of the following exercises off-road or somewhere on the street during the road test:

- Straight line backing.
- Offset back/right
- Offset back/left
- Parallel park (driver side).
- Parallel park (conventional).
- Alley dock.

These exercises are shown in Figures 12-1 through 12-6.

12.1 SCORING

- Crossing Boundaries (encroachments)
- Pull-ups
- Vehicle Exits
- Final Position

Encroachments – The examiner will score the number of times you touch or cross over an exercise boundary line with any portion of your vehicle. Each encroachment will count as an error.

Pull-ups – When a driver stops and reverses direction to get a better position, it is scored as a “pull-up”. Stopping without changing direction does not count as a pull-up. You will not be penalized for initial pull-ups. However, an excessive number of pull-ups, will count as errors.

Outside Vehicle Observations (Looks) – You may be permitted to safely stop and exit the vehicle to check the external position of the vehicle (look). When doing so, you must place the vehicle in neutral and set the parking brake(s). Then, when exiting the vehicle, you must do so safely by facing the vehicle and maintaining three points of contact with the vehicle at all times (when exiting a bus, maintain a firm grasp on the handrail at all times).. If you do not safely secure the vehicle or safely exit the vehicle it may result in an automatic failure of the basic control skills test.

The maximum number of times that you may look to check the position of you vehicle is two (2)

except for the Straight Line Backing exercise, which allows one look. Each time you open the door, move from a seated position where in physical control of the vehicle or on a bus walk to the back of a bus to get a better view, it is scored as a “look”.

Final Position – It is important that you finish each exercise exactly as the examiner has instructed you. If you do not maneuver the vehicle into its final position as described by the examiner, you will be penalized and could fail the basic skills test.

Passing Score

The passing score for the basic vehicle control skills test segment is 9 or fewer errors.

Test Instructions

The examiner will read instructions just prior to the beginning of each exercise and show you a diagram similar to one of those in this section. The examiner will read the following overview of the basic control skills exercises just prior to the first exercise.

“This test consists of a series of basic control exercises. Try not to go over any exercise lines or hit any of the cones with any part of your vehicle. The foot of each cone or line marks the exercise boundary. I will explain the boundaries for each exercise as we come to it. You will be scored on how your vehicle finishes within the exercise boundaries. You will be penalized each time you stop your vehicle and change direction to gain better positioning. You will also be penalized each time your vehicle touches or crosses over an exercise boundary. If you see me raise my hand like this at any time during the exercises (examiner raises hand straight up, palm out), stop your vehicle. If you have any questions, please ask.”

If you do not understand the instructions, ask questions. You may inspect the exercise course at this time and ask the examiner questions to help you better understand the exercises. The examiner is not allowed to answer questions about an exercise after the exercise begins.

12.2 Exercises

Forward stop

You will be asked to drive forward between two rows of cones and bring your vehicle to a complete stop as close as you can to the exercise boundary marked by an end line and a set of cones (without touching or going beyond the line or cones). You cannot open your door, lean out the window or stand up to improve your view. You will be scored on how close your vehicle finishes near the stop line at the end of the alley without touching or going beyond it. (See Figure 12-1.)

The examiner will read the following instructions just prior to the forward stop exercise:

"Drive down the alley and stop with the front bumper of your vehicle as close as possible to the last line at the end of the alley without going past the line. Don't lean out the window, stand up, or open the door to see better. When I get to the end of the alley, I will wave you forward. Tap your horn when you are finished. Do you have any questions?"

If you do not understand the instructions, ask questions at this time and be certain you understand the exercise before you begin. The examiner may not answer questions after the exercise begins.

12.2.1 – Straight Line Backing

- You may be asked to back your vehicle in a straight line between two rows of cones without touching or crossing over the exercise boundaries. (See Figure 12.1.)

12.2.2 – Offset Back/Right

You may be asked to back into a space that is to the right rear of your vehicle. You will drive straight forward and back your vehicle into that space without striking the side or rear boundaries marked by cones. You must place your vehicle completely into the space. (See Figure 12.2)

12.2.3 – Offset Back/Left

You may be asked to back into a space that is to the left rear of your vehicle. You will drive straight forward and back your vehicle into that space without striking the side or rear boundaries marked by cones. You must place your vehicle completely into the space. (See Figure 12.3)

12.2.4 – Parallel Park (Driver Side)

You may be asked to park in a parallel parking space that is on your left. You are to drive past the parking space and back into it bringing the rear of your vehicle as close as possible to the rear of the space without crossing side or rear boundaries marked by cones. You are required to get your vehicle completely into the space. (See Figure 12.4)

12.2.5 – Parallel Park (Conventional)

You may be asked to park in a parallel parking space that is on your right. You are to drive past the parking space and back into it bringing the rear of your vehicle as close as possible to the rear of the space without crossing side or rear boundaries marked by cones. You are required to get your vehicle completely into the space. (See Figure 12.5)

12.2.6 – Alley Dock

You may be asked to sight-side back your vehicle into an alley, bringing the rear of your vehicle as close as possible to the rear of the alley without going beyond the exercise boundary marked by a line or row of cones. You are required to get your vehicle completely into the space with your entire vehicle straight with the alley. (See Figure 12.6.)

Right Turn

You will be asked to drive forward and make a right turn around a cone, bringing the right rear wheel(s) of your vehicle as close as possible to the cone without touching or crossing over the foot of the cone with any part of your vehicle. The examiner scores the number of pull-ups, encroachments and the amount of clearance your vehicle has as your right rear wheel(s) pass by the cone. (See Figure 12-4.)

The examiner will read the following instructions just prior to the right turn exercise:

"Drive slowly forward and make a right turn around the cone. Try to bring your rear wheels as close to the base of the cone as you can without hitting it. Do not let any part of your vehicle cross over the foot of the cone. When I wave you forward, come ahead and make the turn. Tap your horn when you are finished. Do you have any questions?"

If you do not understand the instructions, ask questions at this time and be certain you understand the exercise before you begin.

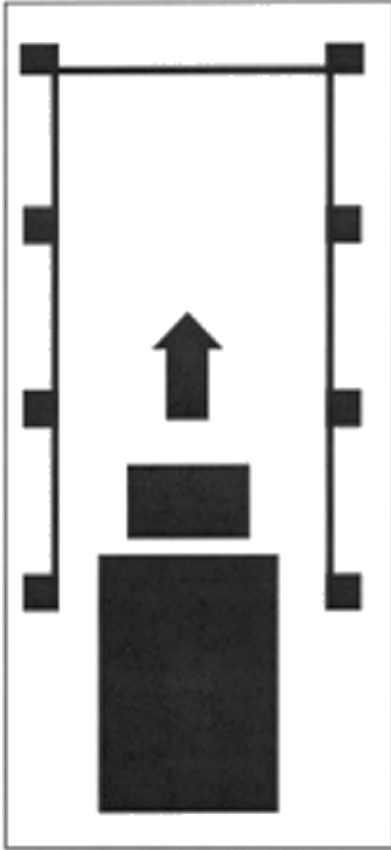


Figure 12-1 Forward stop

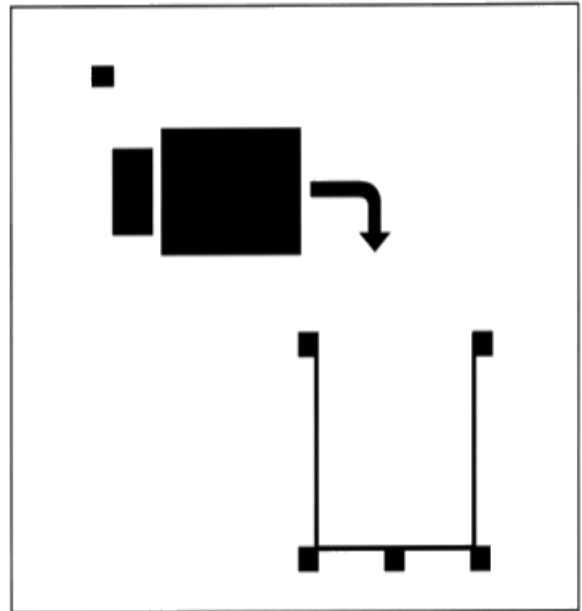


Figure 12-3 Right turn

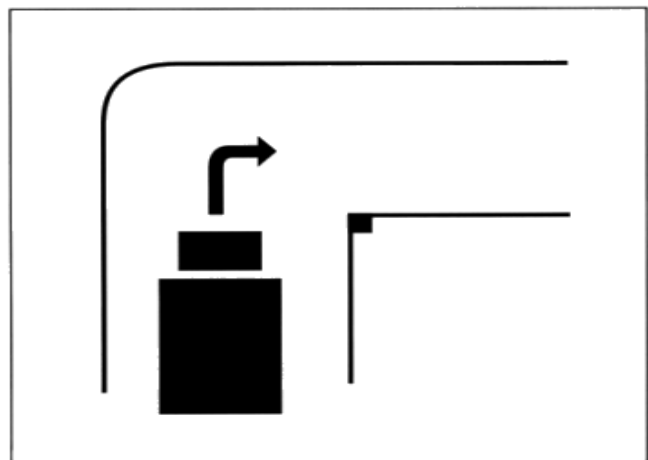


Figure 12-4 Right turn

