

## Michigan CDL Skills Test Standard Verbal Instructions

**Examiner: you must complete document review and vehicle safety inspection before beginning skills test.**

### **Test Overview**

Department of State procedures require that I read these instructions to every applicant. The test will consist of three parts: a vehicle inspection, a basic control skills test, and an on-road driving test. I will read the instructions and answer your questions before each part. Be certain you understand each exercise before you begin.

### **Vehicle Inspection Overview**

Conduct a thorough inspection of the vehicle. You may use the Vehicle Inspection Memory Aid from the Michigan CDL manual. Do you have a memory aid? *[Examiner inspects memory aid for notes or offers memory aid if applicant does not have one.]* You must point to or touch the part, component or system you are checking, identify it, and explain what you are looking for.

Please begin by inspecting all items visible in the engine compartment area, then get in the vehicle, start the engine and do the cab and engine start checks.

After you complete the cab and engine start checks, shut off the engine and get out of the vehicle. Next, check all the external lights. Then continue your external inspection down this side of the vehicle *[examiner points to one side]*. Continue all the way around the vehicle until you are finished. Do you have any questions?

*[Examiner reads instructions for the non-designated side of the vehicle after applicant has inspected the rear of the vehicle.]* Please continue the inspection, but on this side of the vehicle *[examiner points to non-designated side]* you only need to talk about the items unique to this side. You may mention any items you think you missed on the other side of the vehicle. Do you have any questions?

### **Driving Test Overview [read prior to student stop exercise, if applicable]**

During the driving test, I will give you directions as you drive. I will tell you where to turn well in advance. I will not ask you to do anything illegal or unsafe. You must obey traffic laws, traffic signs and signals. I will be marking the test form throughout the test. This will not mean you did something wrong. Please make your traffic checks obvious to me by moving your head. Sometime during the test, I will ask you to describe how to drive on a steep mountain grade. I will give you instructions when we come to this simulated exercise. Do you have any questions? *[Examiner note: tell applicant of other simulated maneuvers that will be on the driving test.]*

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### **Instructions for road test maneuvers, simulations and verbalizations**

Student stop simulation (school bus only)	Imagine that the <i>[landmark]</i> ahead is designated as a location for loading or unloading students. Please demonstrate and explain the procedures to load or unload students at this location.
Stop/start maneuver	When it is safe to do so, pull your vehicle over to the right side of the road, stop your vehicle, and secure it as though you were going to get out and check something on the rear of the vehicle. Tell me when you would be ready to get out, but do not get out of the vehicle. When it is safe to do so, resume driving the vehicle.
Lane change maneuvers	When it is safe to do so, change lanes one lane to the left. When it is safe to do so, change lanes one lane to the right.
Sign recognition	What was the posted clearance of the overpass we just passed? What was the posted weight limit of the bridge we just crossed? What did the road sign indicate that we just passed?
Up/down grade	Imagine the road ahead is a very steep 4-lane mountain grade and this vehicle is fully loaded. Please explain everything you would do as you drive up the grade, reach the top of the grade, and drive down the grade.
Simulated railroad crossing (school bus or commercial passenger vehicle only)	I'd like you to imagine that the <i>[landmark]</i> ahead is a location designated as a railroad crossing. Please demonstrate and explain what you would do if it were an actual railroad crossing. <i>[Examiner note: do not give instruction at actual railroad crossing.]</i>

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## Basic Control Skills Test Overview

This part of the test consists of 4 off-road driving exercises. The lines and the bases of the cones mark exercise boundaries. Try not to go over any exercise boundary or touch any cones with any part of your vehicle. The foot of each cone and each line is an exercise boundary. I will read instructions and explain boundaries before each exercise. You must not exit the vehicle or unfasten your seatbelt during an exercise. If you see me raise my hand like this at any time *[examiner raises hand straight up, palm out]*, stop the vehicle.

You will be scored on final vehicle position, the number of times the vehicle touches or crosses a boundary, and the number of times you pull forward or back to complete an exercise. Do you have any questions?

**Right turn:** In this exercise, you will make a right turn around that cone *[examiner points to cone]*. When I signal you to begin, slowly drive forward and make a right turn around the cone. Try to bring your right rear outermost tire 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 you are finished, set the parking brake, shift into neutral or park and tap the horn. Wait for my signal to begin. Do you have any questions? *[Examiner note: do not discuss the clearance lines.]*

**Forward stop:** In this exercise, you will stop near a line. When I signal you to begin, drive down the alley and stop with the front bumper as close as possible to the end boundary marked by the last set of cones, without crossing the line. You are not allowed to back up. Do not lean out the window, stand up, or open the door. When you are finished, set the parking brake, shift into neutral or park and tap the horn. Wait for my signal to begin. Do you have any questions? *[Examiner note: do not discuss the 2-foot scoring area.]*

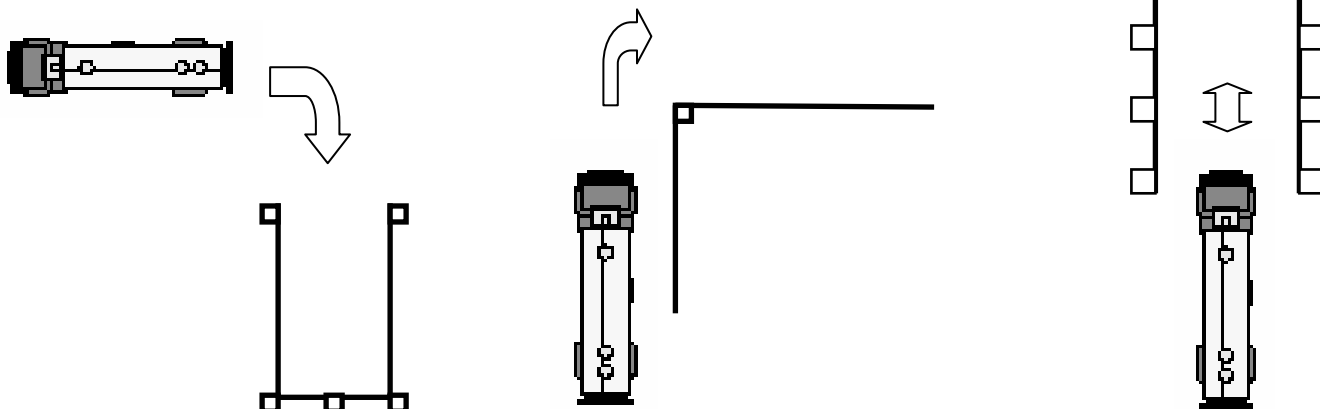
**Straight-line backing:** In this exercise, you will back up through an alley. When I signal you to begin, drive forward until I signal you to stop. I will then signal you to back through the alley. Do not cross over the side boundaries of the alley with any part of your vehicle. Stop after your front bumper clears the cones at the end of the alley. When you are finished, set the parking brake, shift into neutral or park and tap the horn. Do you have any questions?

**Alley-dock:** In this exercise, you will back around a corner into an alley-dock. Before this exercise begins, you will drive past the alley-dock to a start position you choose. Your start position may be as far past the alley-dock as necessary, but the vehicle must be to the left of that boundary cone *[examiner points to cone]* and at a 90-degree angle to the alley-dock. When you are in position, tap your horn and wait for my signal.

When I signal you to begin, back the vehicle into the alley-dock. Attempt to finish with the rear of your vehicle or trailer as close as possible to the cones at the back of the alley-dock without backing over or past them. When you are finished, set the parking brake, shift into neutral or park and tap the horn. Do you have any questions? *[Examiner note: do not discuss the 2-foot scoring area.]*



## BASIC CONTROL SKILLS EXERCISES



(Rev 04/2006)