



**Entry-Level Driver Training Program**  
**CDL CLASS A -THEORY CURRICULUM CHECKLIST**

<b>Unit A1.1.2: Basic operation: Control Systems/Dashboard</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must introduce driver-trainees to vehicle instruments, controls, and safety components. The training providers must teach driver-trainees to read gauges and instruments correctly and the proper use of vehicle safety components, including safety belts and mirrors. The training providers must teach driver-trainees to identify, locate, and explain the function of each of the primary and secondary controls including those required for steering, accelerating, shifting, braking systems (e.g., ABS, hydraulic, air), as applicable, and parking.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

<b>Unit A1.1.3: Basic operation: Pre and Post-Trip Inspections</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must teach the driver-trainees to conduct pre-trip and post-trip inspections as specified in §§ 392.7 and 396.11, including appropriate inspection locations. Instruction must also be provided on enroute vehicle inspections.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

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<b>Unit A1.1.4: Basic operation: Basic Control</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must introduce basic vehicular control and handling as it applies to combination vehicles. This unit must include instruction addressing basic combination vehicle controls in areas such as executing sharp left and right turns, centering the vehicle, maneuvering in restricted areas, and entering and exiting the interstate or controlled access highway.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

<b>Unit A1.1.5: Basic operation: Shifting/Operating Transmissions</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must introduce shifting patterns and procedures to driver-trainees to prepare them to safely and competently perform basic shifting maneuvers. This unit must include training driver-trainees to execute up and down shifting techniques on multi-speed dual range transmissions, if appropriate. The training providers must teach the importance of increased vehicle control and improved fuel economy achieved by utilizing proper shifting techniques.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

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<b>Unit A1.1.6: Basic operation: Backing and Docking</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must teach driver-trainees to back and dock the combination vehicle safely. This unit must cover "Get Out and Look" (GOAL), evaluation of backing/loading facilities, knowledge of backing set ups, as well as instruction in how to back with the use of spotters.					
Provider comments:					

<b>Unit A1.1.7: Basic operation: Coupling and Uncoupling</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must provide instruction for driver-trainees to develop the skills necessary to conduct the procedures for safe coupling and uncoupling of combination vehicle units, as applicable.					
Provider comments:					

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### Section A1.2: SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES Units A1.2.1 to A1.2.7

This section must teach the practices required for safe operation of the combination vehicle on the highway under various road, weather, and traffic conditions. The training providers must teach driver-trainees the Federal rules governing the proper use of seat belt assemblies (§ 392.16).

Unit A1.2.1: Visual Search	Unit / Module (as referenced in material)	Master page number(s)	Class day(s)	Number of hours (estimate)	MDOS Office Use Only
This unit must teach driver-trainees to visually search the road for potential hazards and critical objects, including instruction on recognizing distracted pedestrians or distracted drivers.					
Provider comments:					

Unit A1.2.2: Communication	Unit / Module (as referenced in material)	Master page number(s)	Class day(s)	Number of hours (estimate)	MDOS Office Use Only
This unit must instruct driver-trainees on how to communicate their intentions to other road users. Driver-trainees must be instructed in techniques for different types of communication on the road, including proper use of headlights, turn signals, four-way flashers, and horns. This unit must cover instruction in proper utilization of eye contact techniques with other drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.					
Provider comments:					

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<b>Unit A1.2.3: Distracted Driving</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must instruct driver-trainees in FMCSRs related to distracted driving and other key driver distraction driving issues, including improper cell phone use, texting, and use of in-cab technology (e.g., §§ 392.80 and 392.82). This instruction will include training in the following aspects: visual attention (keeping eyes on the road); manual control (keeping hands on the wheel); and cognitive awareness (keeping mind on the task and safe operation of the CMV).					
Provider comments:					

<b>Unit A1.2.4: Speed Management</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must teach driver-trainees how to manage speed effectively in response to various road, weather, and traffic conditions. The instruction must include methods for calibrating safe following distances taking into account CMV braking distances under an array of conditions including traffic, weather, and CMV weight and length.					
Provider comments:					

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<b>Unit A1.2.5: Space Management</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must teach driver-trainees about the importance of managing the space surrounding the vehicle under various traffic and road conditions.					
Provider comments:					

<b>Unit A1.2.6: Night Operations</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must instruct driver-trainees in the factors affecting the safe operation of CMVs at night and in darkness. Additionally, driver-trainees must be instructed in changes in vision, communications, speed space management, and proper use of lights, as needed, to deal with the special problems night driving presents.					
Provider comments:					

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Unit A1.2.7: Extreme Driving Conditions	Unit / Module (as referenced in material)	Master page number(s)	Class day(s)	Number of hours (estimate)	MDOS Office Use Only
<p>This unit must teach driver-trainees about the specific problems presented by extreme driving conditions. The training provide will emphasize the factors affecting the operation of CMVs in cold, hot, and inclement weather and on steep grades and sharp curves. The training provider must teach proper tire chaining procedures.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					





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<b>Unit A1.3.2: Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must teach the causes of skidding and jackknifing and techniques for avoiding and recovering from them. The training providers must teach the importance of maintaining directional control and bringing the CMV to a stop in the shortest possible distance while operating over a slippery surface. This unit must provide instruction in appropriate responses when faced with CMV emergencies. This instruction must include evasive steering, emergency braking, and off-road recovery, as well as the proper response to brake failures, tire blowouts, hydroplaning, and rollovers. The instruction must include a review of unsafe acts and the role the acts play in producing or worsening hazardous situations.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

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Unit A1.3.3: Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings	Unit / Module (as referenced in material)	Master page number(s)	Class day(s)	Number of hours (estimate)	MDOS Office Use Only
<p>This unit must teach driver-trainees to recognize potential dangers and the appropriate safety procedures to utilize at railroad (RR)-highway grade crossings. This instruction must include an overview of various Federal/State RR grade crossing regulations, RR grade crossing environments, obstructed view conditions, clearance around the tracks, and rail signs and signals. The training providers must instruct driver-trainees that railroads have personnel available (“Emergency Notification Systems”) to receive notification of any information relating to an unsafe condition at the RR-highway grade crossing or a disabled vehicle or other obstruction blocking a railroad track at the RR-highway grade crossing.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

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### Section A1.4: VEHICLE SYSTEMS AND REPORTING MALFUNCTIONS Units A1.4.1 to A1.4.3

This section must provide entry-level driver-trainees with sufficient knowledge of the combination vehicle and its systems and subsystems to ensure that they understand and respect their role in vehicle inspection, operation, and maintenance and the impact of those factors upon highway safety and operational efficiency.

Unit A1.4.1: Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions	Unit / Module (as referenced in material)	Master page number(s)	Class day(s)	Number of hours (estimate)	MDOS Office Use Only
<p>This unit must teach driver-trainees to identify major combination vehicle systems. The goal is to explain their function and how to check all key vehicle systems, (e.g., engine, engine exhaust auxiliary systems, brakes, drive train, coupling systems, and suspension) to ensure their safe operation. Driver-trainees must be provided with a detailed description of each system, its importance to safe and efficient operation, and what is needed to keep the system in good operating condition.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

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<b>Unit A1.4.2: Roadside Inspections</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must instruct driver-trainees on what to expect during a standard roadside inspection conducted by authorized personnel. The training providers must teach driver-trainees on what vehicle and driver violations are classified as out-of-service (OOS), including the ramifications and penalties for operating a CMV when subject to an OOS order as defined in section 390.5.					
Provider comments:					

<b>Unit A1.4.3: Maintenance</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must introduce driver-trainees to the basic servicing and checking procedures for various engine and vehicle components and to help develop their ability to perform preventive maintenance and simple emergency repairs.					
Provider comments:					

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**Section A1.5: NON-DRIVING ACTIVITIES**  
**Units A1.5.1 to A1.5.10**

This section must teach driver-trainees the activities that do not involve actually operating the CMV.

<b>Unit A1.5.1: Handling and Documenting Cargo</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must teach the basic theory of cargo weight distribution, cargo securement on the vehicle, cargo covering, and techniques for safe and efficient loading/unloading. The training providers must teach driver-trainees the basic cargo security/cargo theft prevention procedures. The training provider must teach driver-trainees the basic information regarding the proper handling and documentation of HM cargo.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

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<b>Unit A1.5.2: Environmental Compliance Issues</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must teach driver-trainees to recognize environmental hazards and issues related to the CMV and load, and also make the driver-trainee aware that city, county, State, and Federal requirements may apply to such circumstances.					
Provider comments:					

<b>Unit A1.5.3: Hours of Service Requirements</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must teach driver-trainees to understand that there are different hours-of-service (HOS) requirements applicable to different industries. The training providers must teach driver-trainees all applicable HOS regulatory requirements. The training providers must teach driver-trainees to complete a Driver's Daily Log (electronic and paper), timesheet, and logbook recap, as appropriate. The training providers must teach driver-trainees the consequences (safety, legal, and personal) of violating the HOS regulations, including the fines and penalties imposed for these types of violations.					
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<b>Unit A1.5.4: Fatigue and Wellness Awareness</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must teach driver-trainees about the issues and consequences of chronic and acute driver fatigue and the importance of staying alert. The training providers must teach driver-trainees wellness and basic health maintenance information that affect a driver's ability to safely operate a CMV.					
Provider comments:					

<b>Unit A1.5.5: Post-Crash Procedures</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
This unit must teach driver-trainees appropriate post-crash procedures, including the requirement that the driver, if possible, assess his or her physical condition immediately after the crash and notify authorities or assign the task to other individuals at the crash scene. The training providers must teach driver-trainees how to protect the area; obtain emergency medical assistance; move on-road vehicles off the road in minor crashes so as to avoid subsequent crashes or injuries; engage flashers; place reflective triangles and other warning devices for stopped vehicles; and properly use a fire extinguisher, if necessary. The training providers must instruct driver-trainees in post-crash testing requirements related to controlled substances and alcohol.					
Provider comments:					

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<b>Unit A1.5.6: External Communications</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must teach driver-trainees in the value of effective interpersonal communication techniques/skills to interact with enforcement officials. The training providers must teach driver-trainees the specifics of the roadside vehicle inspection process, and what to expect during this activity. Driver-trainees who are not English speakers must be instructed in FMCSA English language proficiency requirements. The training providers must teach driver-trainees the impact that violating Federal and state regulations has on their driving records and their employing motor carrier's records.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

<b>Unit A1.5.7: Whistleblower/Coercion</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must teach the driver-trainees about the right of an employee to question the safety practices of an employer without incurring the risk of losing a job or being subject to reprisals simply for stating a safety concern. The training providers must instruct driver-trainees in the whistleblower protection regulations in 29 CFR part 1978. The training providers must teach the procedures for reporting to FMCSA incidents of coercion from motor carriers, shippers, receivers, or transportation intermediaries.</p>					
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Unit A1.5.8: Trip Planning	Unit / Module (as referenced in material)	Master page number(s)	Class day(s)	Number of hours (estimate)	MDOS Office Use Only
<p>This unit must address the importance of and requirements for planning routes and trips. This instruction must address planning the safest route, planning for rest stops, heavy traffic areas, railroad-highway grade crossing safe clearance and ground clearance (i.e., “high center”), the importance of Federal and State requirements on the need for permits, and vehicle size and weight limitations. The training providers must teach driver-trainees in the correct identification of restricted routes, the pros and cons of Global Positioning System (GPS)/trip routing software, and the importance of selecting fuel-efficient routes.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

Unit A1.5.9: Drugs/Alcohol	Unit / Module (as referenced in material)	Master page number(s)	Class day(s)	Number of hours (estimate)	MDOS Office Use Only
<p>This unit must teach driver-trainees the rules applicable to controlled substances (including prescription drugs) and alcohol use and testing related to the operation of a CMV.</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					

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<b>Unit A1.5.10: Medical Requirements</b>	<b>Unit / Module (as referenced in material)</b>	<b>Master page number(s)</b>	<b>Class day(s)</b>	<b>Number of hours (estimate)</b>	<b>MDOS Office Use Only</b>
<p>This unit must teach driver-trainees the Federal rules on medical certification, medical examination procedures, general qualifications, responsibilities, and disqualifications based on various offenses, orders, and loss of driving privileges (49 CFR part 391, subparts B and E).</p>					
<p>Provider comments:</p>					