

Uncoupling and Coupling

The second part of tractor-trailer road test is uncoupling and coupling. In this stage, you are required to uncouple the trailer, inspect the tractor, inspect the trailer and couple again with the correct procedure.

Procedure:

Demonstrate:

- Ensure the window is rolled down, transmission is neutral, wheels are chocked, and vehicle is secure

Tell examiner:

- Parking brakes are applied
- Wheel is chocked
- Vehicle is secure

Demonstrate:

- Ensure the ground under the landing gear on both sides is level and secure.

Tell examiner:

- The ground is secure and level

Demonstrate:

- Lower the landing gear until it lightly touches the ground. make sure you do not raise the trailer
- Change to low gear and secure the handle.
- Check between fifth wheel and the trailer for any gap

Tell examiner:

- There is no gap between fifth wheel and the trailer

Demonstrate:

- Disconnect and secure air and electrical lines
- Unlock the fifth wheel using the pulling hook
- Visually check to ensure handle is unlocked

Tell examiner:

- Handle is unlocked

Demonstrate:

- Go under the trailer and visually check that the jaw is open

Tell examiner:

- Jaw is open

Demonstrate:

- Get into the cab, release the tractor parking brake and drive forward until the fifth wheel is cleared but the trailer is over the tractor frame
- Stop, put the gear in neutral and apply tractor brake
- Exit the cab and ensure there is no contact between the trailer and fifth wheel.

Tell examiner:

- The tractor and trailer are disconnected
- The trailer is stable on the landing gear

Demonstrate:

- Enter the cab and pull the tractor forward to the direction of examiners choosing
- Put the gear in neutral and apply the tractor parking brake
- Turn on the four-way flasher
- Exit cab
- Inspect the following on the tractor
 - Mounting of airlines and electric cable
 - Air lines and electric cable for any damages or cuts
 - Glad hands and electrical socket for any damages
 - The rubber seal on the glad hands
 - Visually check all the fifth wheel and lock mechanism components for any damage, loose or missing parts.
 - Ensure four-way flasher is on
 - Ensure the handle and jaws are open
 - Ensure there is enough grease on the fifth wheel

Tell examiner:

- Airlines and electric cable mounted properly
- No cuts or damages on the airlines and electric cable
- Glad hands have no cracks or damages, the rubbers are in good condition.
- The electrical socket has no damages, no objects inside
- All the components of the fifth wheel and lock mechanism are in good condition, none are missing.
- All the fasteners are tight, none are missing.
- Four-way flasher works properly.
- Jaw is open.
- There is enough grease top of the fifth wheel
- (On the other side) All the components of the fifth wheel and lock mechanism and fasteners are in good condition, none is missing.

Demonstrate:

- Ensure there are no objects between the tractor and trailer

Tell examiner:

- There is no object between the tractor and trailer, space is clear

Demonstrate:

- Get in the cab
- Release the tractor parking brake and put the gear in reverse
- Honk the electric horn
- Back up the tractor until the fifth wheel is just ahead of the trailer or slightly touching the trailer
- Pull the tractor parking brake and put the gear in neutral
- Exit the cab
- Ensure the height of the trailer is adequate

Tell examiner:

- The trailer height is good.

Demonstrate:

- Get under the trailer
- Ensure the kingpin is in-line with the jaw
- Ensure the kingpin is in good condition, has no damage or lock.
- Ensure the trailer upper plate is in good condition.

Tell examiner:

- The kingpin is in-line with the jaw.
- The kingpin is in good condition, has no damage or cracks.
- The trailer upper plate is in good condition, no damage or rust.

Demonstrate:

- Check the trailer glad hands and rubber seals for any damage.
- Check the electric box is mounted properly, has no damage and no object inside.
- Check the electrical and air lines for any damage.

Tell examiner:

- The glad hands are mounted properly, have no cracks or damages, the rubbers are in good condition.
- The electrical box is mounted properly, cap is secure, all pins are straight, no object inside the box.

Demonstrate:

- Get in the cab
- Release the tractor parking brake and put the gear in reverse
- Slowly reverse until the jaw is locked.
- Perform the tug test twice
- Apply the tractor parking brake and put the gear in neutral
- Exit the cab
- Ensure the handle is in lock position

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure there is no gap between the fifth wheel and the trailer• Ensure the jaw is closed around the pin
<p>Tell examiner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handle is in lock position• There is no gap between the fifth wheel and the trailer• The jaw is closed around the pin
<p>Demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connect the airlines and the electric cable.• Ensure the trailers four-way flashers are working properly
<p>Tell examiner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The flashers are working so the electric cable is connected properly
<p>Demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the landing gear completely and secure the handle
<p>Tell examiner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I am going to charge the trailer and do the air leak test
<p>Demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release the trailer parking brake• Ensure the air pressure is above 100 psi.• Turn off the engine and turn on the ignition.• Listen for any air leak.
<p>Tell examiner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no leak from supply line.
<p>Demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Press and hold the brake pedal• Listen for any air leak.
<p>Tell examiner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no leak from service line.

Demonstrate:

- Apply trailer parking brake
- Remove the chocks
- Test the trailer hand brake and service brake before driving to the road test.
(Examiner will instruct you when to perform this test)

