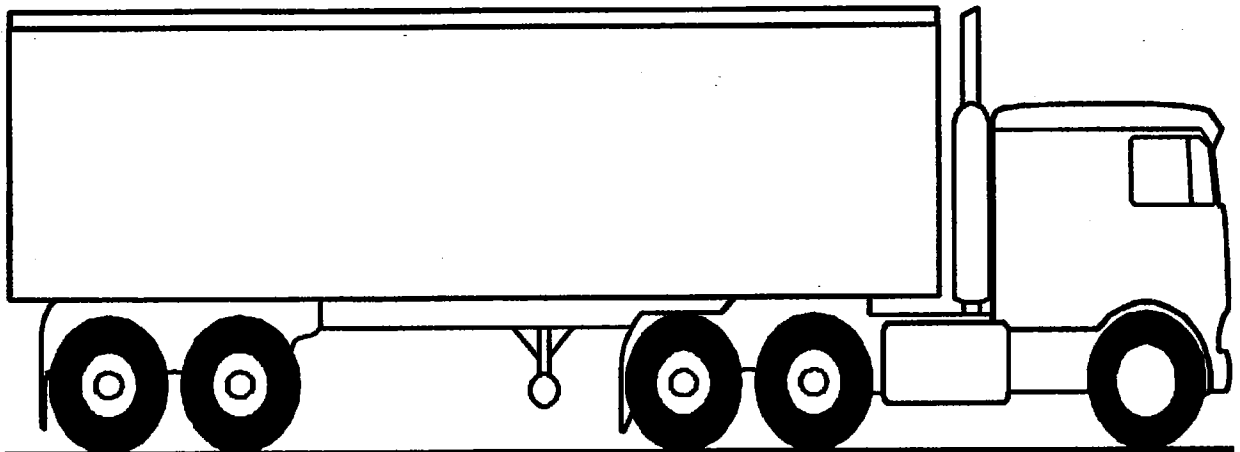


# **Missouri Commercial Driver License Manual**



## **IMPORTANT!**

**CERTAIN MEDICAL RESTRICTIONS APPLY.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:**

**FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIERS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
573-636-3246**

**MISSOURI MOTOR CARRIERS SERVICES UNIT  
573-751-7117 or toll free 866-831-6277**

**Missouri Department of Revenue  
January 2004**

# MISSOURI CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

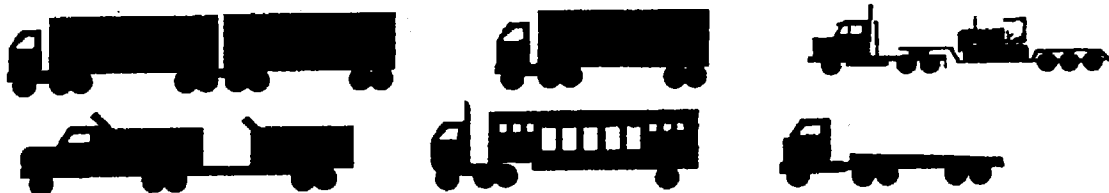
(Note: Certain types of vehicles such as tankers, passenger, vehicles hauling hazardous materials, and double/triple trailers, will require an endorsement. Please consult text for particulars.)

| Class | *Description |
|-------|--------------|
|-------|--------------|

**A**

Any combination of vehicles with a Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) of 26,001 or more pounds provided the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds. (Holders of a Class A license may also, with any appropriate endorsements, operate all vehicles within Class B and C.)

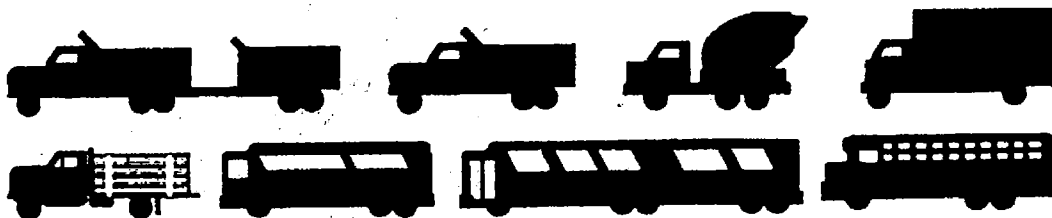
Examples include but are not limited to:



**B**

Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR. (Holders of a Class B license may also, with any appropriate endorsements, operate all vehicles within Class C.)

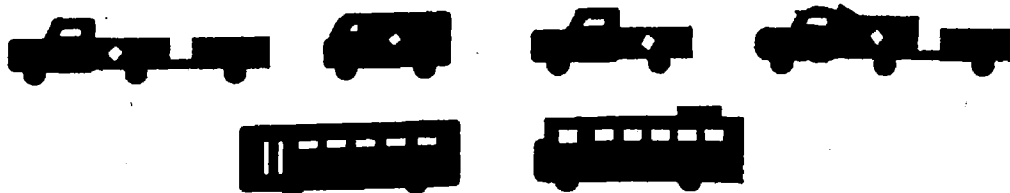
Examples include but are not limited to:



**C**

Any single vehicle less than 26,001 pounds GVWR or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR. This group applies only to vehicles which are placarded for hazardous materials or are designed to transport 16 or more persons, including the operator. A holder of a Class A, B or C license may drive all vehicles which may be driven by a holder of a Class E or Class F license.

Examples include but are not limited to:



\*The representative vehicle for the skills test must meet the written description for that group. The examples represent, but do not fully cover, the types of vehicles falling within each group.

Model

# **COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE MANUAL**

**Version 2.0  
CDL Drivers Manual  
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# Table of Contents

## PART ONE

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Section 1: Introduction .....                                   | 1-1  |
| 1.1 Commercial Driver's License Tests .....                     | 1-1  |
| 1.2 Other CDL Rules .....                                       | 1-2  |
| Section 2: Driving Safely .....                                 | 2-1  |
| 2.1 Vehicle Inspection .....                                    | 2-1  |
| 2.2 Basic Control of Your Vehicle .....                         | 2-15 |
| 2.3 Shifting Gears .....  | 2-17 |
| 2.4 Seeing .....  | 2-19 |
| 2.5 Communicating .....   | 2-21 |
| 2.6 Controlling Speed .....                                     | 2-24 |
| 2.7 Managing Space .....  | 2-27 |
| 2.8 Driving at Night .....                                      | 2-31 |
| 2.9 Driving in Fog .....  | 2-34 |
| 2.10 Driving in Winter .....                                    | 2-34 |
| 2.11 Driving in Very Hot Weather .....                          | 2-37 |
| 2.12 Railroad Crossings .....                                   | 2-38 |
| 2.13 Mountain Driving .....                                     | 2-39 |
| 2.14 Seeing Hazards .....                                       | 2-41 |
| 2.15 Emergencies .....  | 2-45 |
| 2.16 Skid Control and Recovery .....                            | 2-49 |
| 2.17 Accident Procedures .....                                  | 2-51 |
| 2.18 Fires .....  | 2-52 |
| 2.19 Staying Alert and Fit to Drive .....                       | 2-54 |
| 2.20 Hazardous Materials Rules For All Commercial Drivers ..... | 2-57 |
| Section 3: Transporting Cargo Safely .....                      | 3-1  |
| 3.1 Inspecting Cargo .....                                      | 3-1  |
| 3.2 Weight and Balance .....                                    | 3-2  |
| 3.3 Securing Cargo .....  | 3-4  |
| 3.4 Other Cargo Needing Special Attention .....                 | 3-5  |

## PART TWO

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Section 4: Transporting Passengers .....   | 4-1 |
| 4.1 Pre-trip Inspection .....              | 4-1 |
| 4.2 Loading and Trip Start .....           | 4-2 |
| 4.3 On the Road .....                      | 4-4 |
| 4.4 After-trip Vehicle Inspection .....    | 4-5 |
| 4.5 Prohibited Practices .....             | 4-5 |
| 4.6 Use of Brake-door Interlocks .....     | 4-6 |
| Section 5: Air Brakes .....                | 5-1 |
| 5.1 The Parts of an Air Brake System ..... | 5-1 |
| 5.2 Dual Air Brake .....                   | 5-6 |
| 5.3 Inspecting Air Brake Systems .....     | 5-6 |
| 5.4 Using Air Brakes .....                 | 5-8 |

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Section 6: Combination Vehicles .....                       | 6-1  |
| 6.1 Driving Combination Vehicles Safely .....               | 6-1  |
| 6.2 Combination Vehicle Air Brakes .....                    | 6-5  |
| 6.3 Coupling and Uncoupling .....                           | 6-8  |
| 6.4 Inspecting a Combination Vehicle.....                   | 6-14 |
| <br>  |      |
| Section 7: Doubles and Triples .....                        | 7-1  |
| 7.1 Pulling Double/Triple Trailers .....                    | 7-1  |
| 7.2 Coupling and Uncoupling .....                           | 7-2  |
| 7.3 Inspecting Doubles and Triples.....                     | 7-5  |
| 7.4 Doubles/Triples Air Brake Check .....                   | 7-6  |
| <br>  |      |
| Section 8: Tank Vehicles .....                              | 8-1  |
| 8.1 Inspecting Tank Vehicles .....                          | 8-1  |
| 8.2 Driving Tank Vehicles .....                             | 8-2  |
| 8.3 Safe Driving Rules .....                                | 8-3  |
| <br>  |      |
| Section 9: Hazardous Materials .....                        | 9-1  |
| 9.1 The Intent of the Regulations .....                     | 9-2  |
| 9.2 Hazardous Materials Transportation--Who Does What ..... | 9-3  |
| 9.3 Communication Rules .....                               | 9-4  |
| 9.4 Loading and Unloading .....                             | 9-16 |
| 9.5 Bulk Packaging Marking, Loading and Unloading .....     | 9-20 |
| 9.6 Hazardous Materials--Driving and Parking Rules .....    | 9-21 |
| 9.7 Hazardous Materials--Emergencies .....                  | 9-25 |
| <br>  |      |
| Table A Radioactive Separation Table .....                  | 9-30 |
| Table B Table of Hazard Class Definitions .....             | 9-30 |
| Hazardous Materials Glossary.....                           | 9-31 |

**PART THREE**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Section 10: Pre-trip Vehicle Inspection Test .....        | 10-1  |
| 10.1 All Vehicles.....                                    | 10-1  |
| 10.2 External Inspection (School Bus/Truck/Tractor) ..... | 10-5  |
| 10.3 School Bus Only.....                                 | 10-9  |
| 10.4 Trailer .....  | 10-11 |
| 10.5 Coach/Transit Bus .....                              | 10-12 |
| <br>  |       |
| Section 11: Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test .....       | 11-1  |
| 11.1 Scoring .....  | 11-1  |
| 11.2 Exercises.....                                       | 11-1  |
| <br>  |       |
| Section 12: On-road Driving Test.....                     | 12-1  |
| 12.1 How You Will Be Tested .....                         | 12-1  |

**PART FOUR**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Section 13: Missouri Commercial Driver License Information ..... | 13-1 |
|--|------|

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# PART ONE

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- 1. *Introduction***
- 2. *Driving Safely***
- 3. *Transporting Cargo Safely***

**THIS PART IS FOR ALL  
COMMERCIAL DRIVERS**

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# Section 1

---

**Introduction**

**CDL**

**Serious  
Traffic  
Violations**

**KNOWLEDGE TESTS**

**GVWR**

**THIS SECTION IS FOR  
ALL COMMERCIAL DRIVERS**

# Section 1: Introduction

There is a federal requirement that each state have minimum standards for the licensing of commercial drivers. This manual provides driver license testing information for drivers who wish to have a commercial driver's license (CDL). This manual does NOT provide information on all the federal and state requirements needed before you can drive a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). You may have to contact your state driver licensing authority for additional information.

You must have a CDL to operate:

- A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 26,000 pounds.
- A trailer with a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds if the gross combination weight rating is more than 26,000 pounds.
- A vehicle designed to transport more than 15 persons (including the driver).
- Any size vehicle which requires hazardous materials placards.

(Your state may have additional definitions of CMVs.)

To get a CDL, you must pass knowledge and skill tests. This manual will help you pass the tests.

---

You will have to take one or more knowledge tests, depending on what class of license and what endorsements you need. The CDL knowledge tests include:

- The general knowledge test, taken by all applicants.
- The passenger transport test, taken by all bus driver applicants.
- The air brakes test, which you must take if your vehicle has air brakes.
- The combination vehicles test, which is required if you want to drive combination vehicles.
- The hazardous materials test, required if you want to haul hazardous material or waste in amounts which require placarding.
- The tanker test, required if you want to haul liquids in bulk.
- The doubles/triples test, required if you want to pull double or triple trailers.

## **This Section Explains**

- **Commercial Driver's License Tests**
- **Other Safety Rules**

---

## **1.1 Commercial Driver's License Tests**

- **Knowledge Tests**



## **Skills Test**

If you pass the required knowledge test(s), you can take the CDL skills tests. There are three types of general skills that will be tested: pre-trip inspection, basic vehicle control, and on-road driving. You must take these tests in the type of vehicle for which you wish to be licensed.

**Pre-trip Vehicle Inspection.** You will be tested to see if you know whether your vehicle is safe to drive. You may be asked to do a pre-trip inspection of your vehicle and explain to the examiner what you would inspect and why. Section 10 of this manual tells you what to inspect and how to inspect it.

**Basic Vehicle Control.** You will be tested on your skill to control the vehicle. You will be asked to move your vehicle forward, backward, and turn it within a defined area. These areas may be marked with traffic lanes, cones, barriers, or something similar. The examiner will tell you how each control test is to be done. Section 11 of this manual explains more about this test.

**On-road Test.** You will be tested on your skill to safely drive your vehicle in a variety of traffic situations. The situations may include left and right turns, intersections, railway crossings, curves, up and down grades, single or multi-lane roads, streets, or highways. The examiner will tell you where to drive. Section 12 of this manual explains more about this test.

---

## **1.2 Other CDL Rules**

There are other federal and state rules which affect drivers operating CMVs in all states.

- You cannot have more than one license. If you break this rule, a court may fine you up to \$5,000 or put you in jail. Keep your home state license and return any others.
- You must notify your employer within 30 days of conviction for any traffic violations (except parking). This is true no matter what type of vehicle you were driving.
- You must notify your motor vehicle licensing agency within 30 days if you are convicted in any other jurisdiction of any traffic violation (except parking). This is true no matter what type of vehicle you were driving.
- You must notify your employer if your license is suspended, revoked, or canceled, or if you are disqualified from driving.
- You must give your employer information on all driving jobs you have held for the past 10 years. You must do this when you apply for a commercial driving job.
- No one can drive a commercial motor vehicle without a CDL. A court may fine you up to \$5,000 or put you in jail for breaking this rule.

- Your employer may not let you drive a commercial motor vehicle if you have more than one license or if your CDL is suspended or revoked. A court may fine the employer up to \$5,000 or put him/her in jail for breaking this rule.
- All states are connected to one computerized system to share information about CDL drivers. The states will check on drivers' accident records and be sure that drivers don't get more than one CDL.
- You will lose your CDL for at least one year for a first offense:
  - If you drive a CMV under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance (for example, illegal drugs).
  - If you leave the scene of an accident involving a CMV you were driving.
  - If you use a CMV to commit a felony.

If the offense occurs while you are operating a CMV that is placarded for hazardous materials, you will lose your CDL for at least three years. You will lose your CDL for life for a second offense. You will also lose your CDL for life if you use a CMV to commit a felony involving controlled substances.

- You will lose your CDL:
  - For at least 60 days if you have committed two serious traffic violations within a three-year period involving a CMV.
  - For at least 120 days for three serious traffic violations within a three-year period.

"Serious traffic violations" are excessive speeding (15 mph or more above the posted limit), reckless driving, improper or erratic lane changes, following a vehicle too closely, and traffic offenses committed in a CMV in connection with fatal traffic accidents.

- It is illegal to operate a CMV if your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is .04% or more. You will lose your CDL for one year for your first offense. You will lose it for life for your second offense. If your blood alcohol concentration is less than 0.04% but you have any detectable amount, you will be put out-of-service for 24 hours.
- If you operate a CMV, you shall be deemed to have given your consent to alcohol testing for the above mentioned violations.

### ***Serious Traffic Violations***

### ***Disqualifications***

### ***Implied Consent***

These rules will improve highway safety for you and for all highway users.

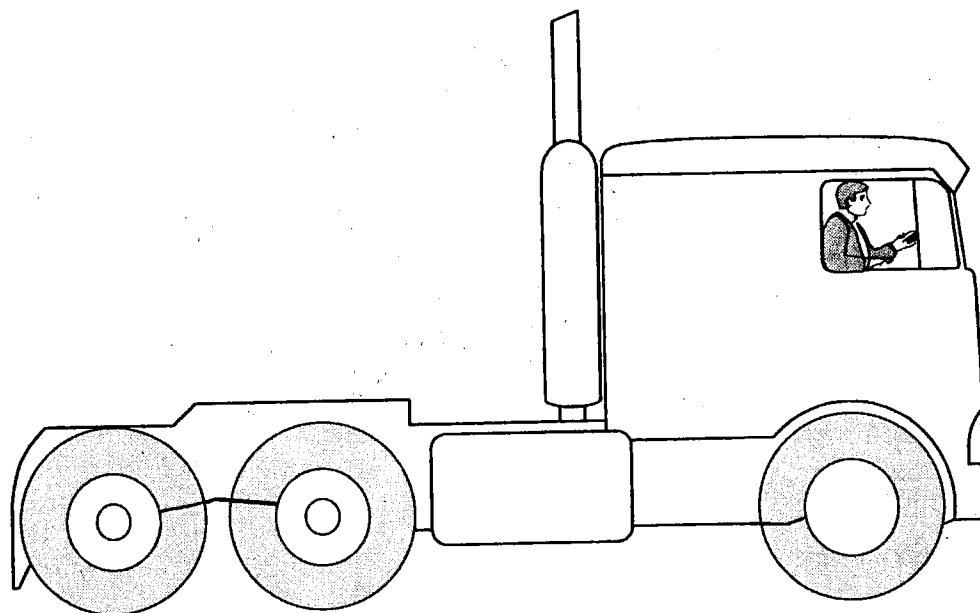
Your state may have additional rules which you must also obey.

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# Section 2

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## ***Driving Safely***



**THIS SECTION IS FOR  
ALL COMMERCIAL DRIVERS**

# Section 2: Driving Safely

This section contains knowledge and safe driving information that all commercial drivers should know. You must pass a test on this information to get a CDL.

This section does **NOT** have specific information on air brakes, combination vehicles, doubles, or passenger vehicles. You must read other sections of this manual to learn about them.

This section does have basic information on hazardous materials (HazMat) that all drivers should know. If you need a HazMat endorsement, you should study Section 9.

## This Section Covers

- **Vehicle Inspection**
- **Vehicle Control**
- **Shifting Gears**
- **Seeing**
- **Communicating**
- **Speed & Space Management**
- **Night Driving**
- **Winter Driving**
- **Mountain Driving**
- **Emergencies**
- **Staying Alert**

Safety is the most important reason you inspect your vehicle. Safety for yourself and for other road users.

A vehicle defect found during an inspection could save you problems later. You could have a breakdown on the road that will cost time and dollars, or even worse, a crash caused by the defect.

Federal and state laws require that drivers inspect their vehicles. Federal and state inspectors also may inspect your vehicles. If they judge the vehicle to be unsafe, they will put it "out of service" until it is fixed.

**Pre-trip Inspection.** A pre-trip inspection will help you find problems that could cause a crash or breakdown.

**During a Trip.** For safety you should:

- Watch gauges for signs of trouble.
- Use your senses to check for problems (look, listen, smell, feel).
- Check critical items when you stop:
  - Tires, wheels and rims
  - Brakes
  - Lights and reflectors
  - Brake and electrical connections to trailer
  - Trailer coupling devices
  - Cargo securement devices

**After-trip Inspection and Report.** You should do an after-trip inspection at the end of the trip, day, or tour of duty on each vehicle you operated. It may include filling out a **vehicle condition report** listing any problems you find. The inspection report helps the motor carrier know when the vehicle needs repairs.

## 2.1 Vehicle Inspection

### Why Inspect?

### Types of Vehicle Inspection

## **What to Look For**

### **Tire Problems.**

- Too much or too little air pressure.
- Bad wear. You need at least 4/32 inch tread depth in every major groove on front tires. You need 2/32 inch on other tires. No fabric should show through the tread or sidewall.
- Cuts or other damage.
- Tread separation.
- Dual tires that come in contact with each other or parts of the vehicle.
- Mismatched sizes.
- Radial and bias-ply tires used together.
- Cut or cracked valve stems.
- regrooved, recapped, or retreaded tires on the front wheels of a bus. These are prohibited.

### **Wheel and Rim Problems**

- Damaged rims.
- Rust around wheel nuts may mean the nuts are loose--check tightness. After a tire has been changed, stop a short while later and re-check tightness of nuts.
- Missing clamps, spacers, studs, or lugs means danger.
- Mismatched, bent, or cracked lock rings are dangerous.
- Wheels or rims that have had welding repairs are not safe.

### **Bad Brake Drums or Shoes**

- Cracked drums.
- Shoes or pads with oil, grease, or brake fluid on them.
- Shoes worn dangerously thin, missing, or broken.

### **Steering System Defects (See Figure 2-1)**

- Missing nuts, bolts, cotter keys, or other parts.
- Bent, loose, or broken parts, such as steering column, steering gear box, or tie rods.

- If power steering equipped--hoses, pumps, and fluid level; check for leaks.
- Steering wheel play of more than 10 degrees (approximately two inches movement at the rim of a 20-inch steering wheel) can make it hard to steer.

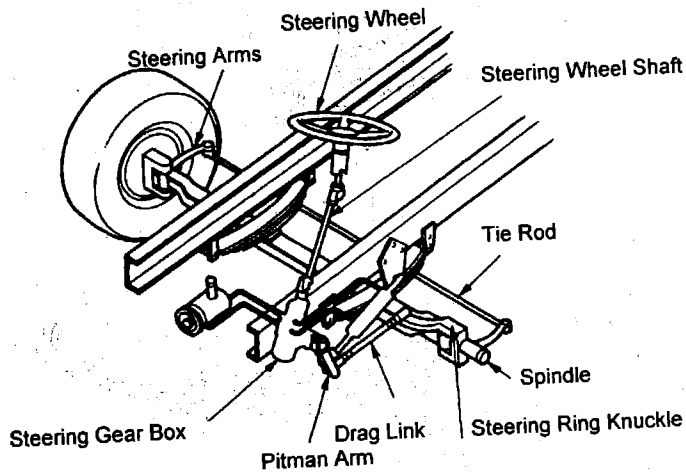


Figure 2-1

Examples of Steering System Key Parts

**Suspension System Defects.** The suspension system holds up the vehicle and its load. It keeps the axles in place. Therefore, broken suspension parts can be extremely dangerous. Look for:

- Spring hangers (Figure 2-2) that allow movement of axle from proper position.
- Cracked or broken spring hangers.
- Missing or broken leaves in any leaf spring. If one fourth or more are missing, it will put the vehicle "out of service" but any defect could be dangerous (Figure 2-3).
- Broken leaves in a multi-leaf spring or leaves that have shifted so they might hit a tire or other part.
- Leaking shock absorbers (Figure 2-4).
- Torque rod or arm, u-bolts, spring hangers, or other axle positioning parts that are cracked, damaged, or missing (Figure 2-2).
- Air suspension systems that are damaged and/or leaking (Figure 2-4).
- Any loose, cracked, broken, or missing frame members.

