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Daniel B.'s



**CDL
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION
GUIDE**



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PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Introduction

This is my Pre-Trip Inspection, done my way! This Pre-Trip is done on my truck and trailer. It is a complete Pre-Trip Inspection and features everything you'll need to know. I've been working on this for a long time and my hometime finally gave me the chance to finish it all up.

This is based off of Prime Inc.'s Pre-Trip Inspection procedure. Your company's Pre-Trip might vary slightly.

Here are our sections:

Engine Compartment

Drivers Door Fuel Area

Coupling System

Trailer (Please note in the type of suspension your trailer has)

Light Check

In-Cab Inspection and Brake Tests



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Introduction

You will absolutely have to do the Coupling System, Light Check, and In-Cab Inspection. Then they select for you to also do either the Engine Compartment, Drivers Door Fuel Area, or the Trailer. It could be either one.

You will have a total of 4 sections that you must pass on your exam. So study extra-hard on those required sections.

As stated, these are solely based off of how I like to do the Pre-Trip. I give my personal opinions as well as some helpful tips.

Your instructors advice may vary. In the end, just do it the way your Instructor wants you to do it.

Daniel B.

Original TruckingTruth.com "Pre-Trip Inspection My Way" Forum Thread:

<http://www.truckingtruth.com/truckers-forum/Topic-3798/Page-1/pre-trip-inspection-my-way-a-must-see>



Pre-Trip Inspection Terminology:

PMS - Properly Mounted, Secure

CBB - Cracked, Bent, Broken

ABC - Abrasions, Bulges, Cuts

A few general tips:

If its rubber - ABC

If it has fluid/air going through it or in it - Not leaking.

If its mounted (almost everything is)- PMS

If its metal or some other hard surface- CBB



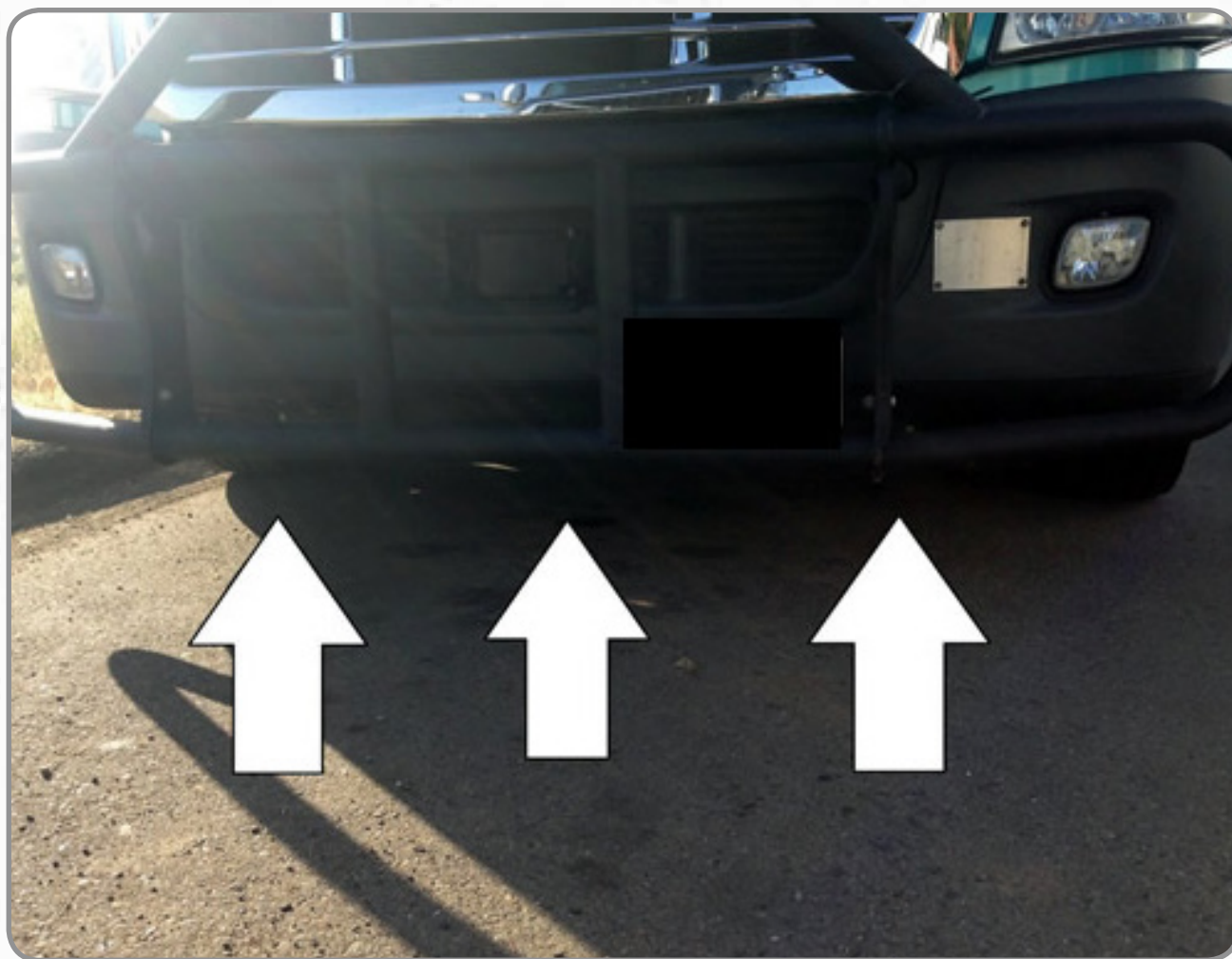
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Leaks

Check for leaks under the truck.

DANIEL'S TIP: This is easy to forget, I suggest you mention it first to get it out of the way.





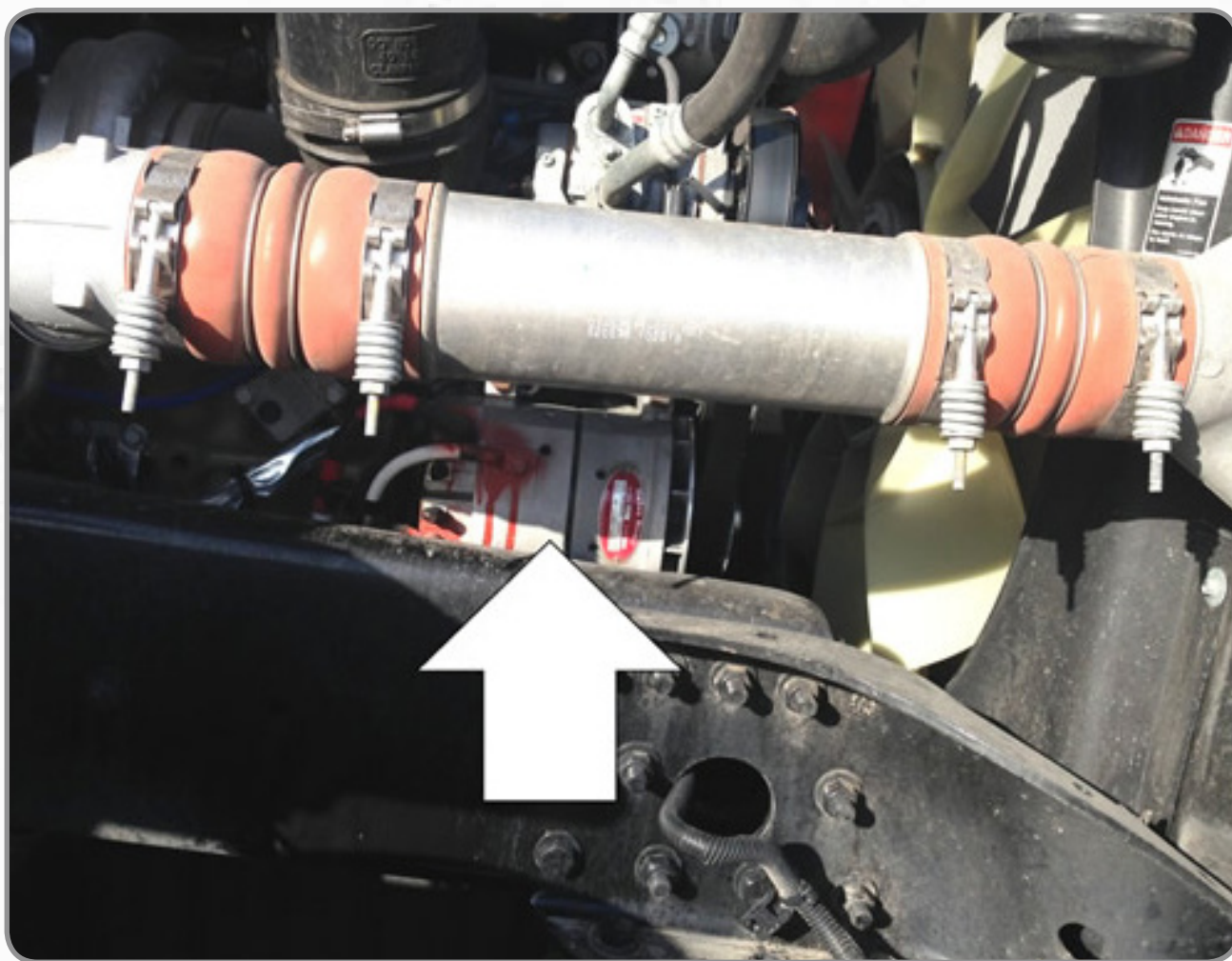
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Belt Driven Alternator

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. All wires connected. The belt is not cracked or frayed and the free play on the belt is between 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch.

DANIEL'S TIP: Remember the Alternator is Belt Driven. Do not forget to mention the belt!





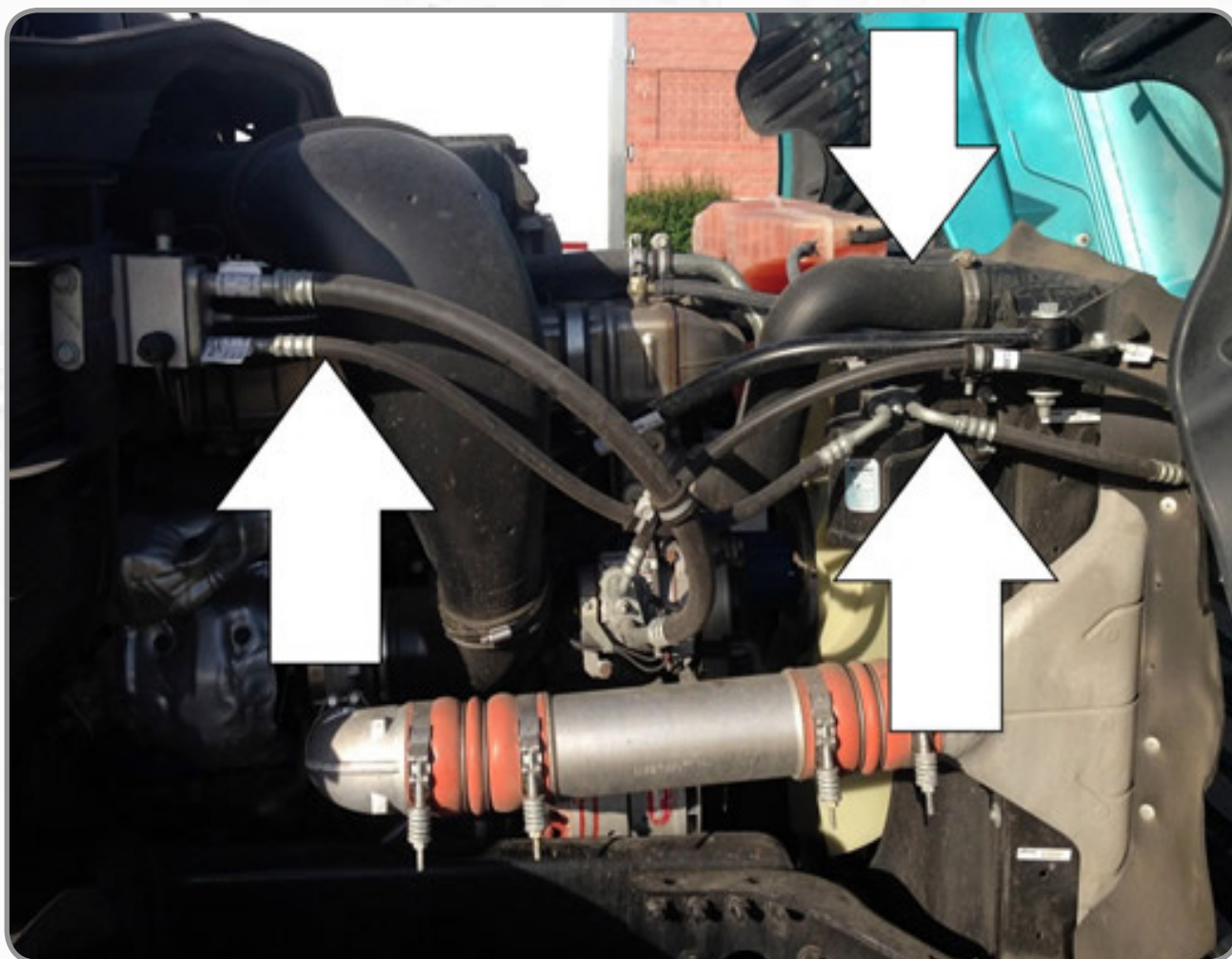
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

General Hoses Passenger Side

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts and not leaking.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't forget to mention "at both ends". Fluids run through these hoses so you must say that they're not leaking.





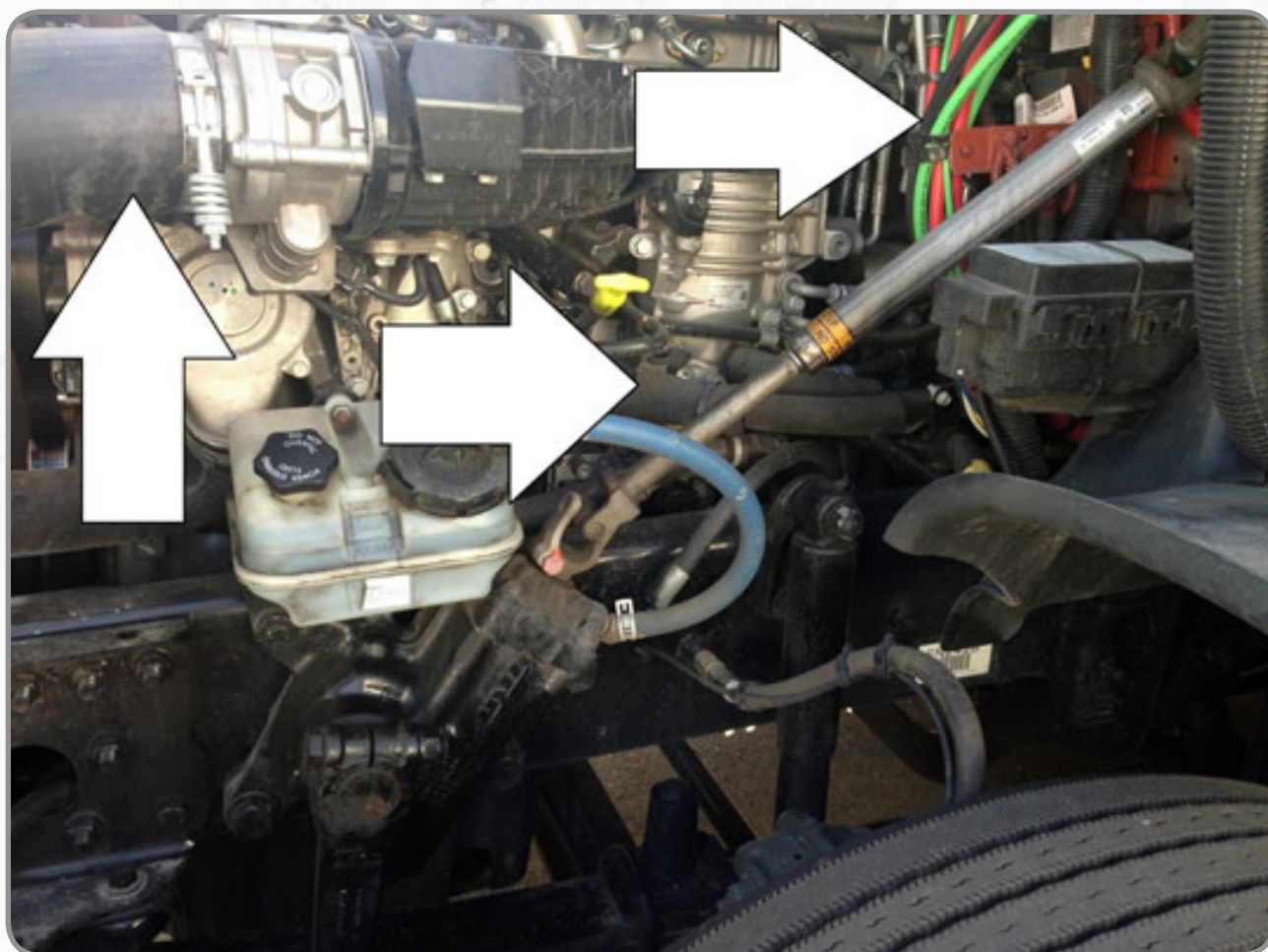
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

General Hoses Drivers Side

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts and not leaking.

DANIEL'S TIP: Same thing - Don't forget to mention "at both ends". Fluids run through these hoses so you must say that they're not leaking.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Coolant Reservoir

Properly Mounted and Secure Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking and filled to manufacturer's specifications.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Reservoir must be Properly Mounted and Secure, but don't forget about the hoses leading to and from the Reservoir! You must also state that its filled to manufacturer's specifications and not leaking.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Belt Driven Water Pump

Properly Mounted and Secure Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking The belt is not cracked or frayed and the free play on the belt is between 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Water Pump is Belt Driven, don't forget that belt! Check all the hoses running to and from the Water Pump, ensure that nothing is leaking.





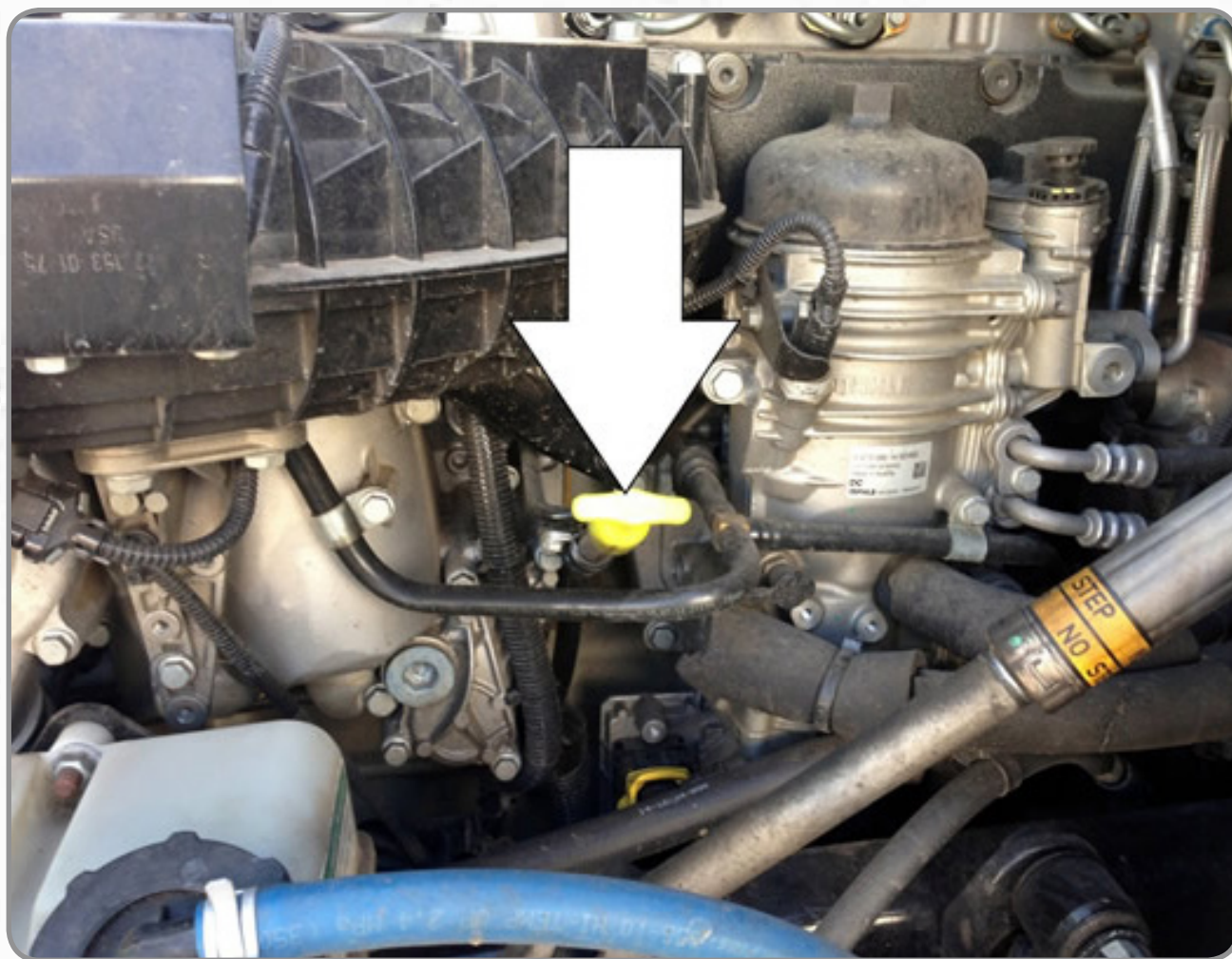
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Oil Level

Filled to manufacturer's specifications.

DANIEL'S TIP: You don't need to take out the dipstick. Just point at the dipstick and say its filled to manufacturer's specifications.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Power Steering Fluid Reservoir

Properly Mounted and Secure Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking and filled to manufacturer's specifications.

DANIEL'S TIP: We've got many hoses here. Don't abandon those hoses! Ensure nothing is leaking and filled to manufacturer's specifications.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Gear Driven Air Compressor

Properly Mounted and Secure Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Air Compressor is Gear Driven. It is located behind the Frame and you really cannot see it. As long as you state all the above and point in the general area you'll be fine.





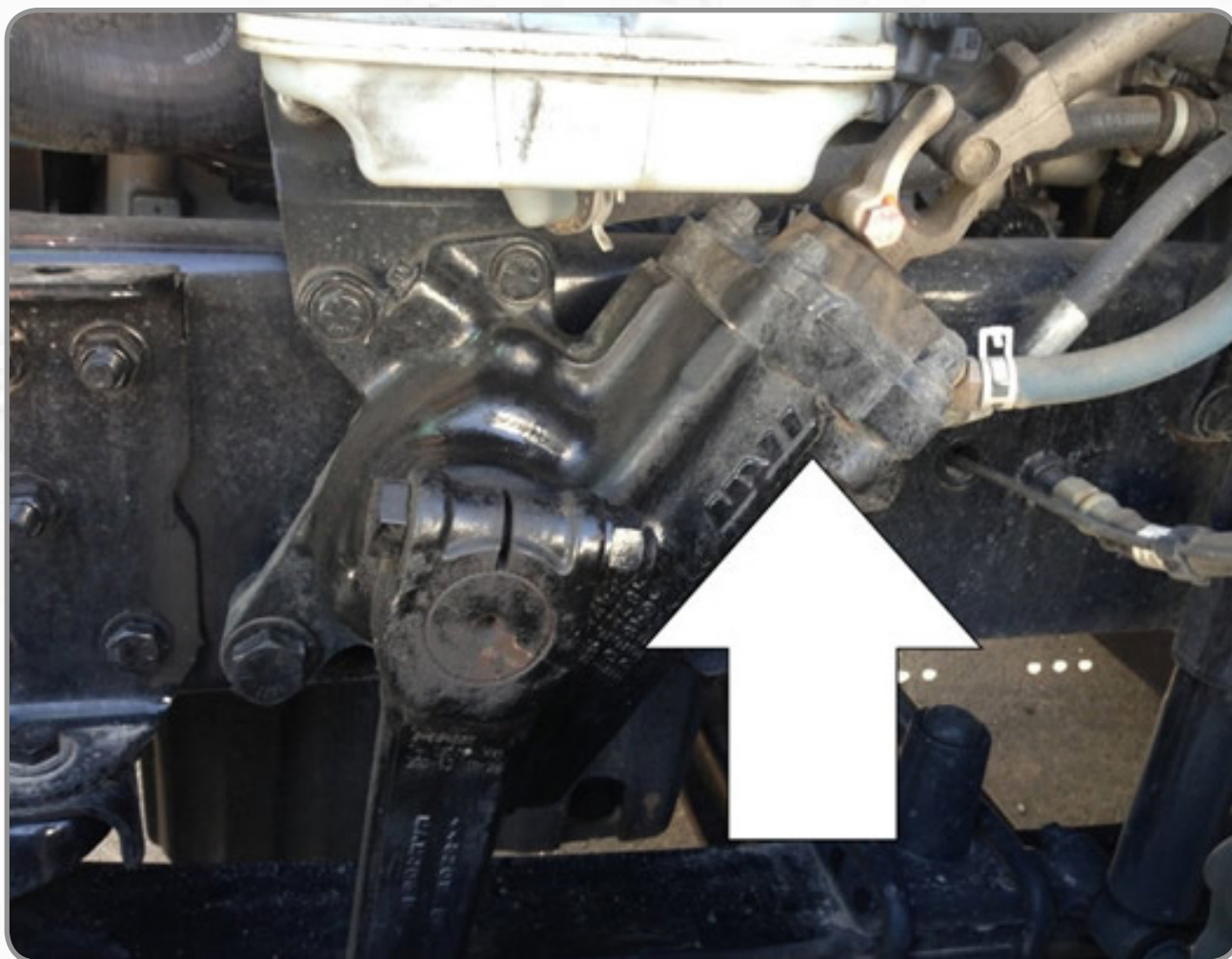
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Gear Driven Power Steering Pump

Properly Mounted and Secure Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking.

DANIEL'S TIP: Likewise, the Power Steering Pump is located at the same place as the Air Compressor. This is also Gear Driven. Ensure its not leaking and state the above - point in the general area and you're good.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Gear Box and Hoses

Properly Mounted and Secure Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts and not leaking.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't forget to mention the hoses and not leaking.





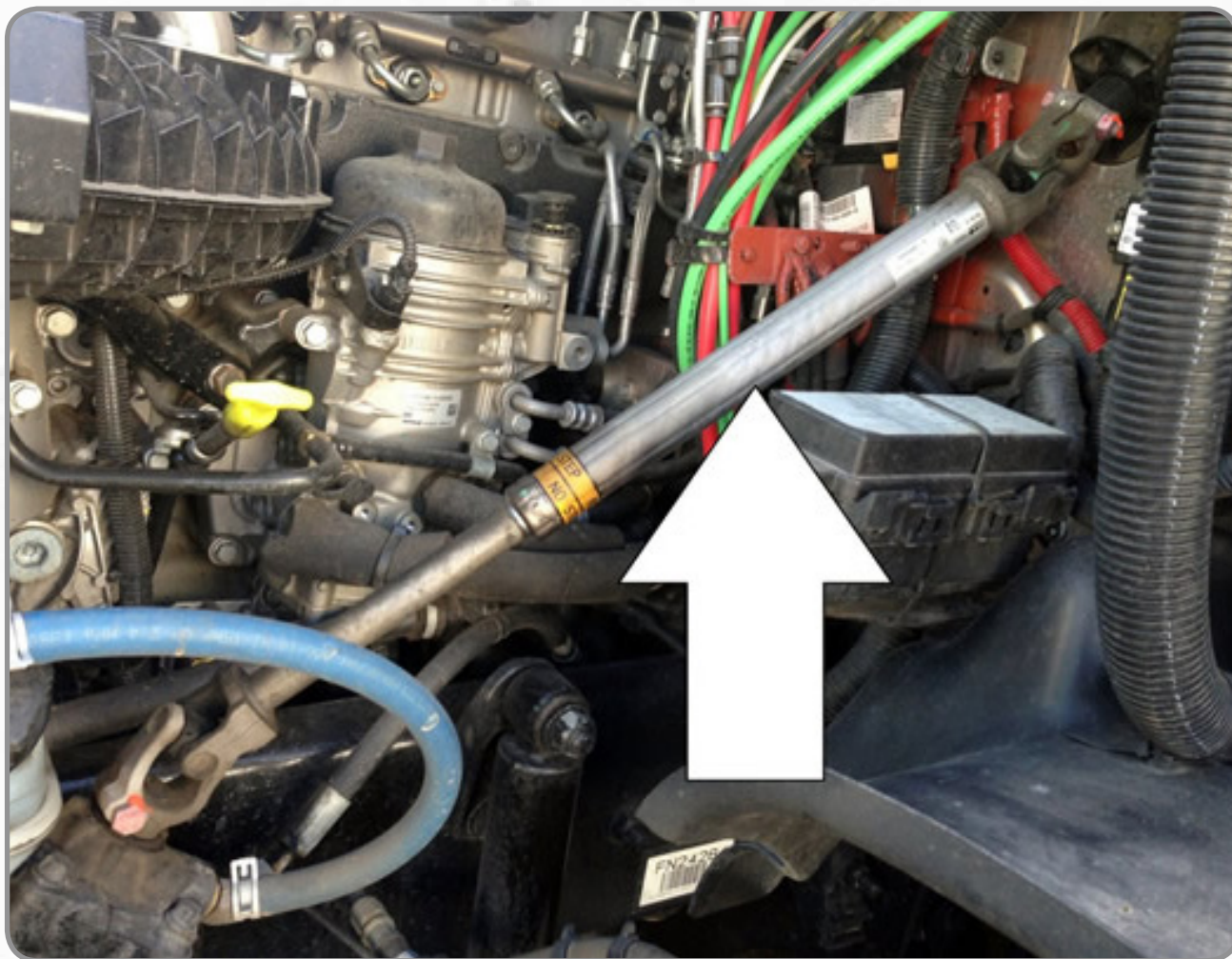
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Steering Column

Properly Mounted and Secure Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Combine the Pitman Arm, Drag Link, Tie Rod, Castle Nuts and Cotter Pins and state that you'll be checking all of these the same way. Point at each item and name the part, then state "I check all of these the same way, they're all to be Properly Mounted and Secure and not Cracked, Bent, or Broken." While pointing at the Castle Nuts and Cotter Pins don't forget to state that there are no Missing Castle Nuts or Cotter Pins. All of these items make up your Steering Linkage.



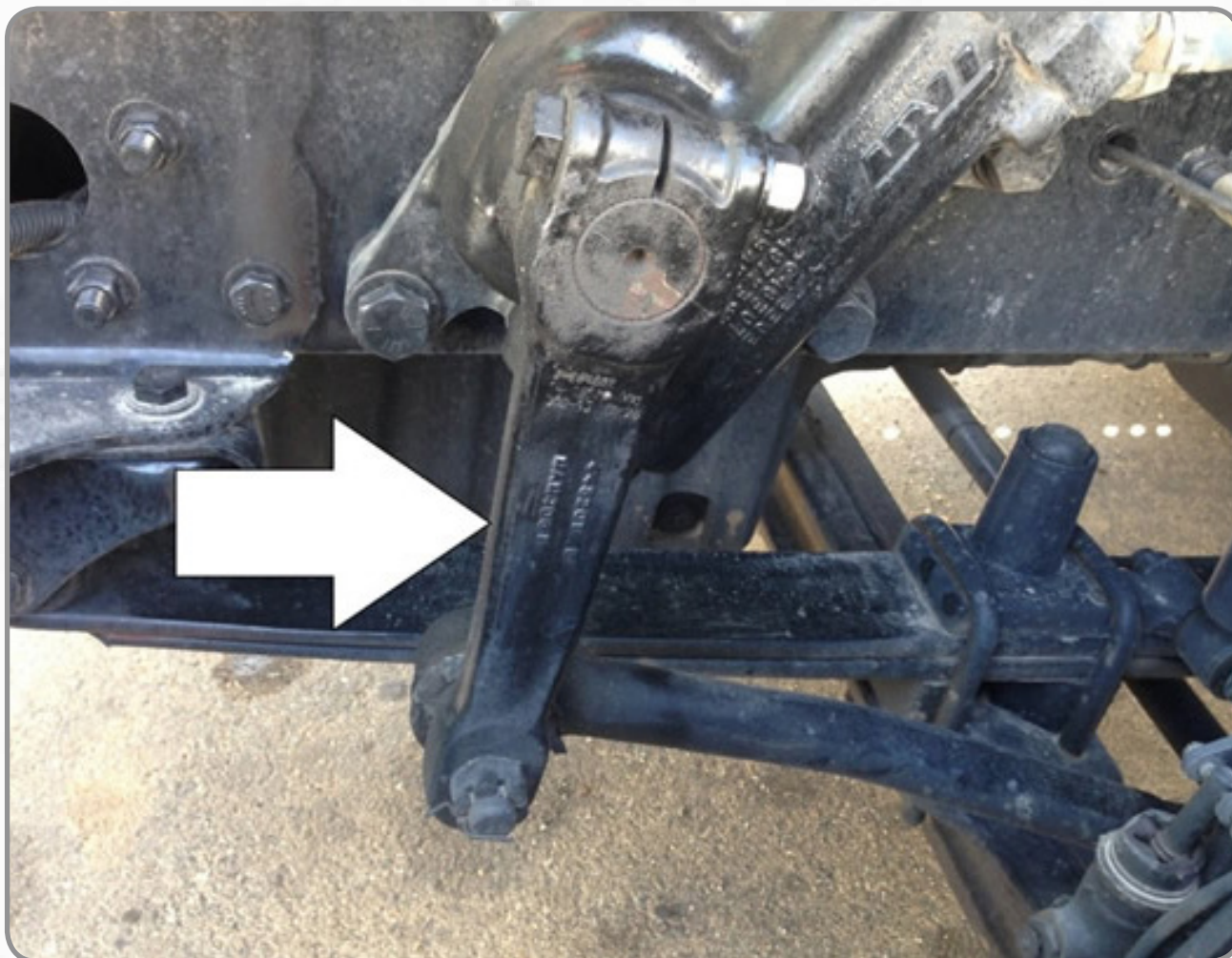
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Pitman Arm

Properly Mounted and Secure Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Combine the Pitman Arm, Drag Link, Tie Rod, Castle Nuts and Cotter Pins and state that you'll be checking all of these the same way. Point at each item and name the part, then state "I check all of these the same way, they're all to be Properly Mounted and Secure and not Cracked, Bent, or Broken." While pointing at the Castle Nuts and Cotter Pins don't forget to state that there are no Missing Castle Nuts or Cotter Pins. All of these items make up your Steering Linkage.





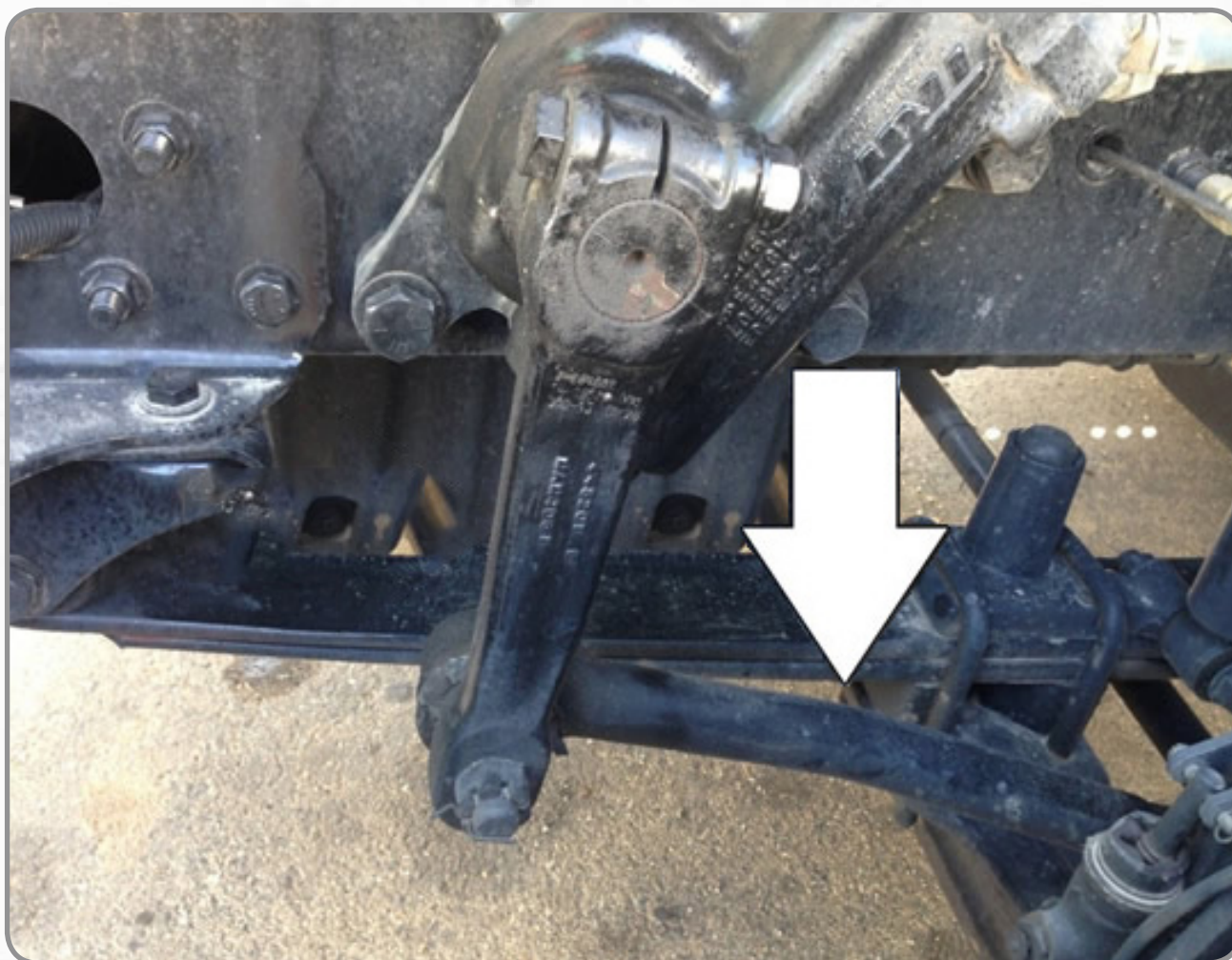
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Drag Link

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Combine the Pitman Arm, Drag Link, Tie Rod, Castle Nuts and Cotter Pins and state that you'll be checking all of these the same way. Point at each item and name the part, then state "I check all of these the same way, they're all to be Properly Mounted and Secure and not Cracked, Bent, or Broken." While pointing at the Castle Nuts and Cotter Pins don't forget to state that there are no Missing Castle Nuts or Cotter Pins. All of these items make up your Steering Linkage.





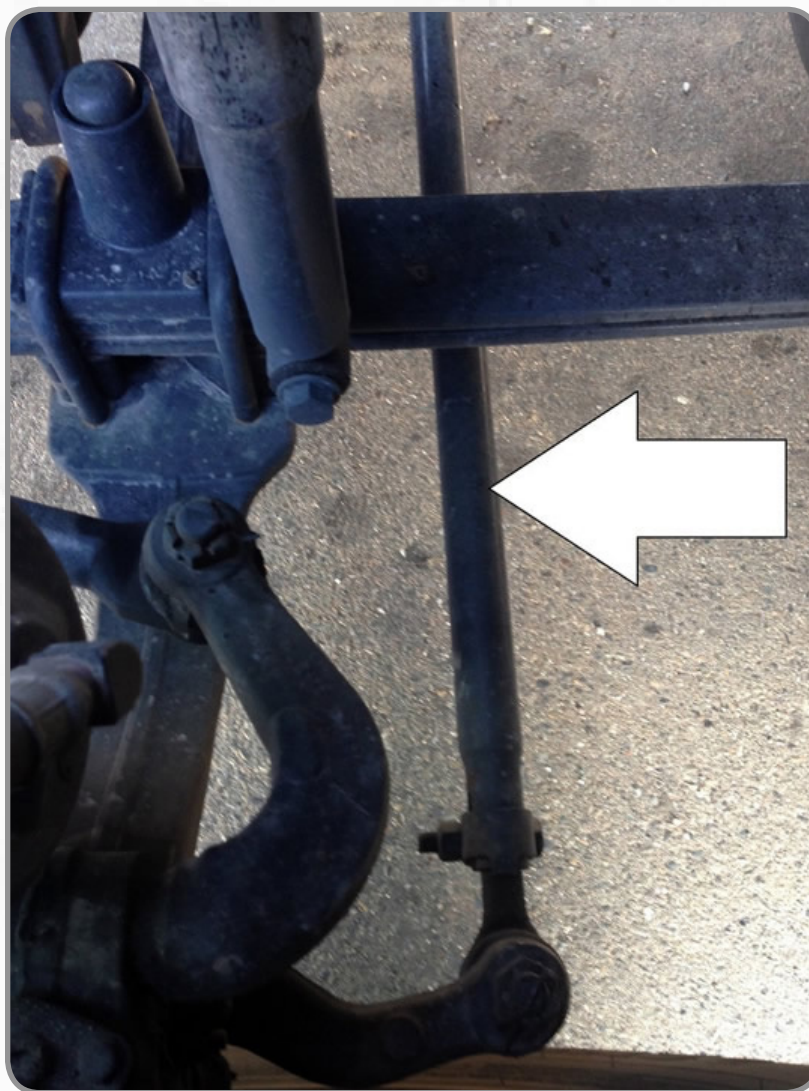
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Tie Rod

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Combine the Pitman Arm, Drag Link, Tie Rod, Castle Nuts and Cotter Pins and state that you'll be checking all of these the same way. Point at each item and name the part, then state "I check all of these the same way, they're all to be Properly Mounted and Secure and not Cracked, Bent, or Broken." While pointing at the Castle Nuts and Cotter Pins don't forget to state that there are no Missing Castle Nuts or Cotter Pins. All of these items make up your Steering Linkage.





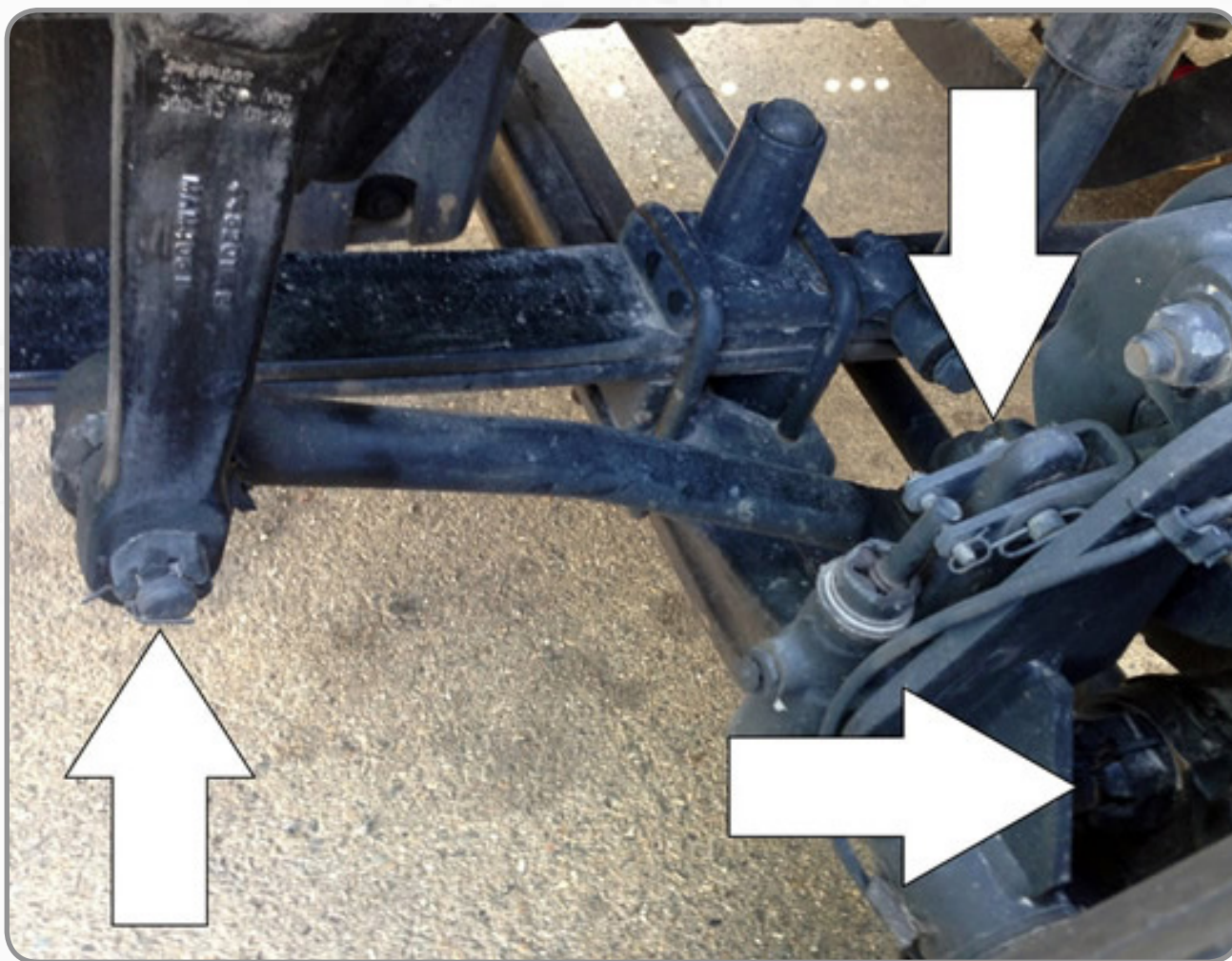
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Caste Nuts and Cotter Pins

None missing. Cotter Pin is present.

DANIEL'S TIP: Lots of folks like to combine this with the Drag Link. I do not, I like to say this separately at the very end of my Steering Section. As long as you say there are none missing and the Cotter Pin is present you'll be good to go! Don't forget that there are three Caste Nuts and you must point at all three.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Spring Hanger

Properly Mounted and Secure at both front and rear. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: The difference between a Hanger and a Mount is that Hangers are much, much smaller. I could go technical but don't over complicate this. The Hangers are in the front, Mounts in the back. Be sure to say "at both front and rear".



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Leaf Springs

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. None are shifted.

DANIEL'S TIP: Leaf Springs will always be in the Engine Compartment, they're not Spring Arms! Don't let any fool tell you that because they would be wrong. These are Leaf Springs because there are multiple Springs - plural. Be sure to say none are shifted.





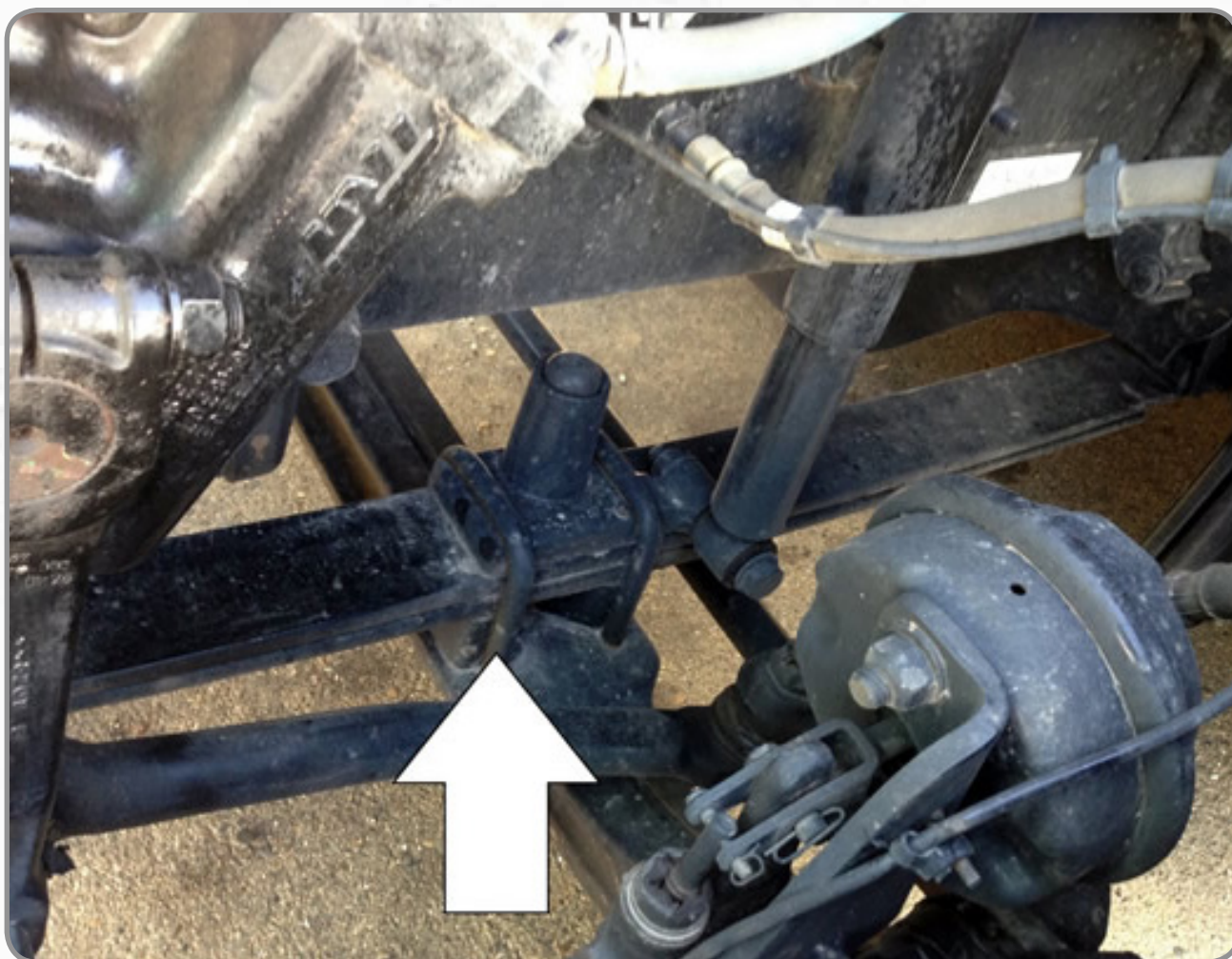
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

U-Bolts

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. None missing.

DANIEL'S TIP: Very simple item. Just be sure to say none are missing, that line is easily forgettable.





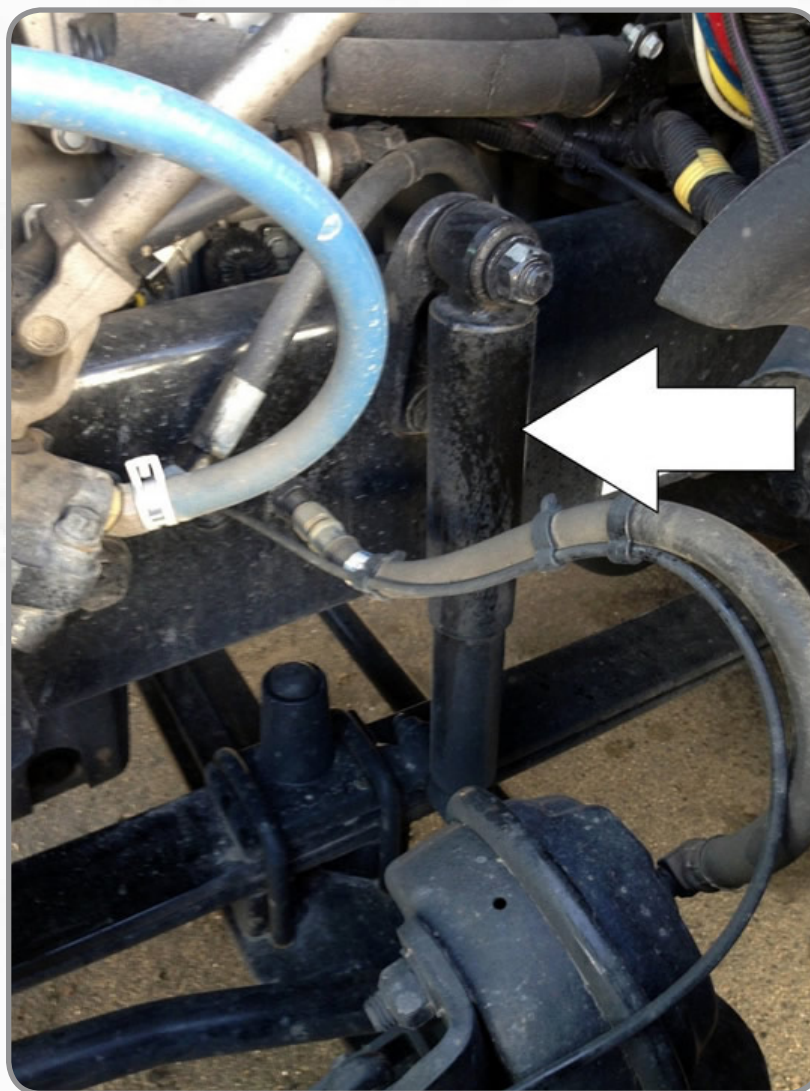
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Shock Absorber

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't forget to say "at both ends" and "not leaking". If it'll leak, it'll leak at the point where the top and bottom portion of the Shock meet - in the Middle.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Brake Hose

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts. Not leaking air.

DANIEL'S TIP: Again, don't forgot to say "at both ends". The Hose is rubber so give it the ABC and not leaking air. You could combine the line with the Chamber but I prefer not to but its very easy to forget to mention the hose. When you're under pressure, you tend to forget the small things - like a hose.





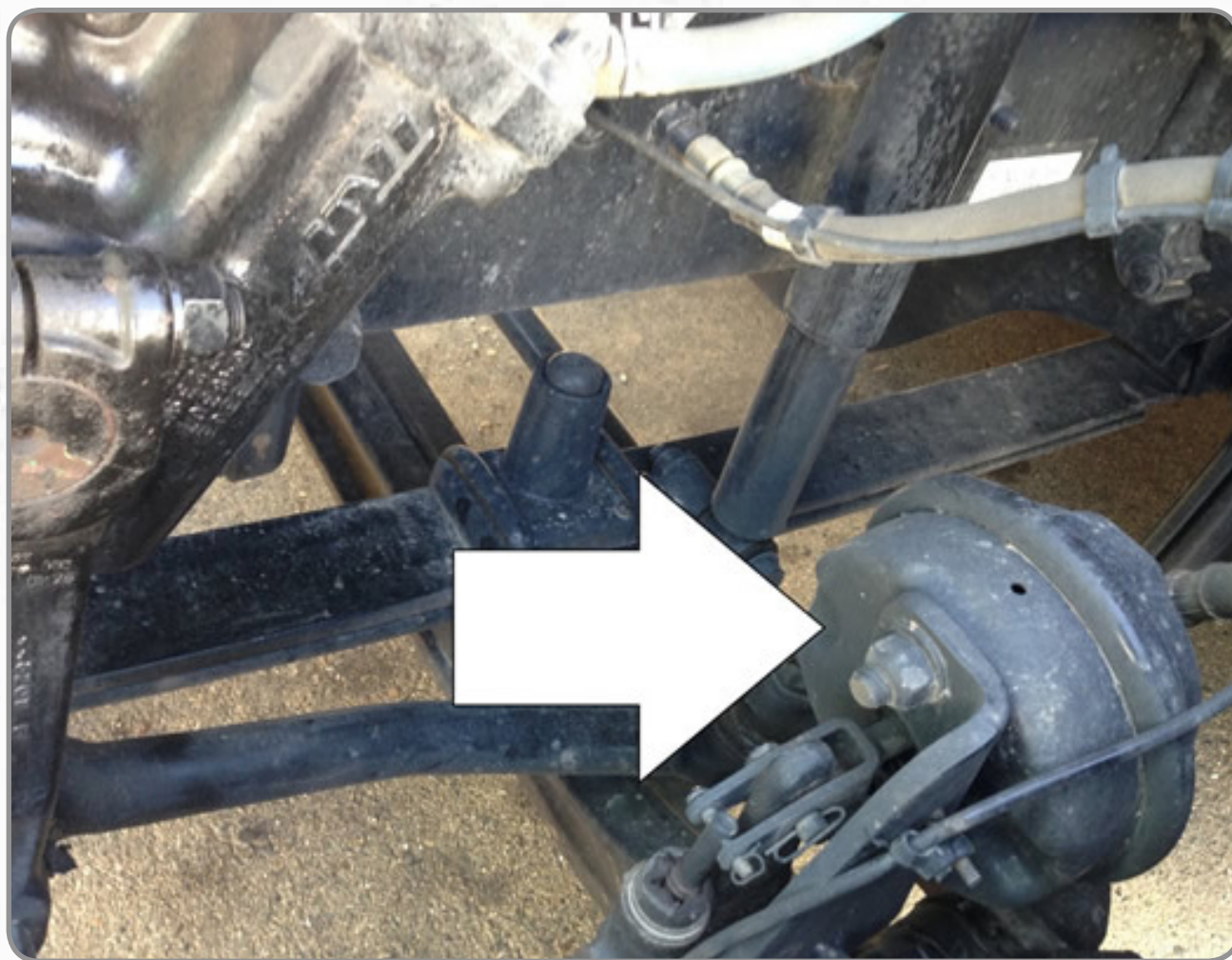
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Brake Chamber

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking air.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy item to inspect, don't forget to mention that it's not leaking air.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Slack Adjuster and Push Rod

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. With the brakes released and pulled by hand, the Push Rod should not move more than 1 inch.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Slack Adjuster and Push Rod are always combined. Please, be very careful with your words on this one. Say it exactly how I wrote it! Memorize that line.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Brake Drum

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy item to inspect. Just a simple PMS and CBB.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Brake Lining

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No oil or debris. Friction Material is not worn dangerously thin.

DANIEL'S TIP: Remember, you're checking for oil or debris and for friction material on the Lining not on the Drum. People often mix this up. You must point exactly at the Brake Lining, like I have it in the picture.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Rim

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No unauthorized welds.

DANIEL'S TIP: Fairly simple item. Be sure to mention that there cannot be any unauthorized welds.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Lug Nuts

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. There are none missing. No rust trails or powder residue. No cracks around the bolt holes.

DANIEL'S TIP: Rust trails could indicate loose bolts while powder residue and cracks around the bolts holes could be an indication of the bolts being over-tightened. Be sure to let the examiner know you're looking for rust trails or powder residue and no cracks around the bolt holes.





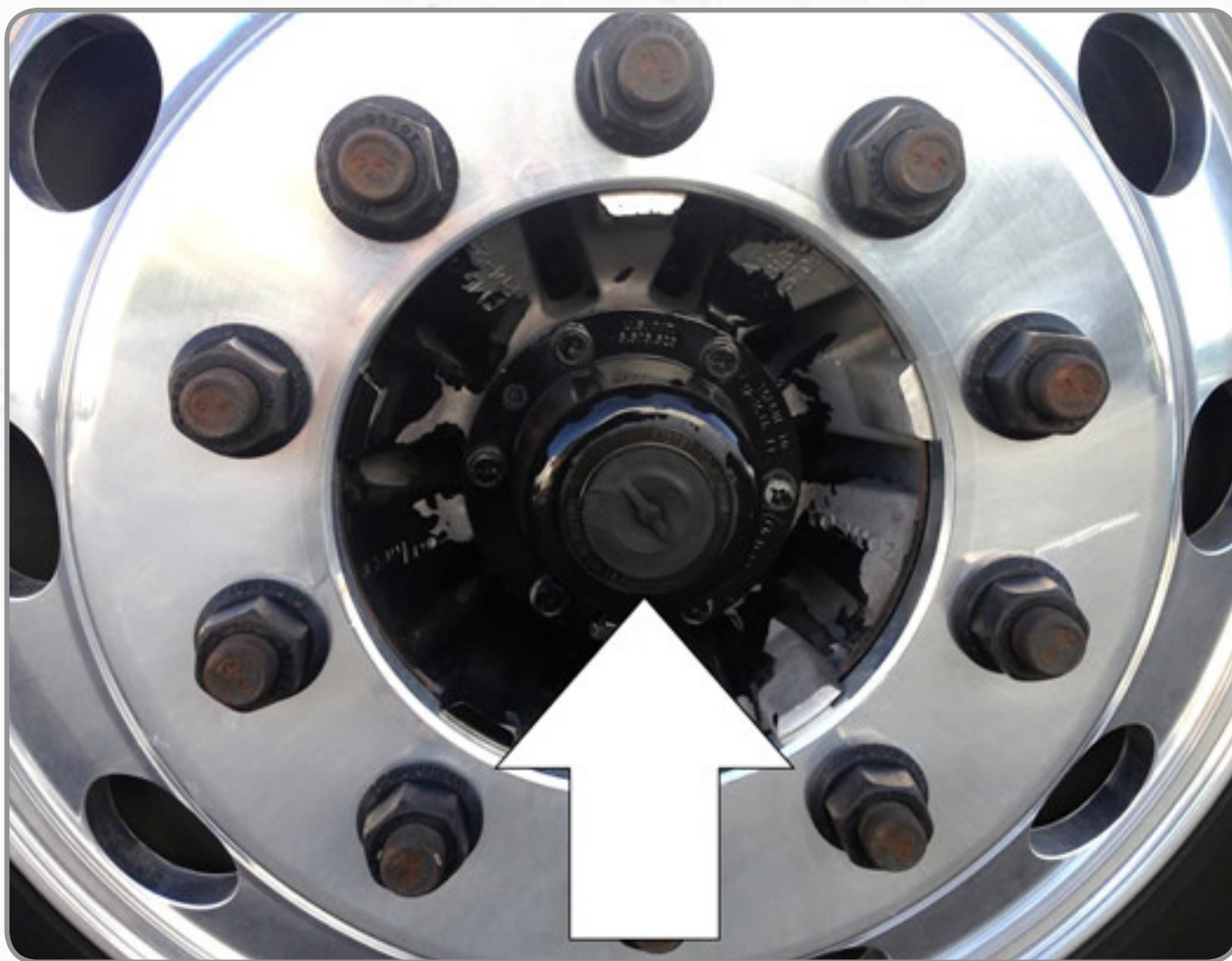
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Hub Seal

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking and filled to manufacturer's specifications.

DANIEL'S TIP: My method is that the Hub Seal is located on the Steer Axle, Axle Seal belongs on all the other Axles. Though it doesn't matter if you call the Trailer Axle a Hub Seal. You can call these Hub or Axle Seals. Just be sure to say that its filled to manufacturer's specifications.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Engine Compartment

Steer Tire

No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts to the tread or sidewalls. Tread depth is no less than 4/32 of an inch. Properly filled to manufacturer's specifications. Check it with an air gauge.

DANIEL'S TIP: Tires are a big deal! Be sure to look for Abrasions, Buldges or Cuts to the Tread and Sidewalls. Be sure to say it too. Steer tires cannot be less than 4/32 of an inch depth. You must say "of an inch", simply saying "4/32" is not enough. Properly filled to manufacturer's specifications and you absolutely must add that you check it with an air gauge! You don't have to physically check it with an air gauge on your exam, just mention that you would.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Mirrors

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. And clean.

DANIEL'S TIP: Be sure to say that it is clean. On your In-Cab you must do the Mirrors all over again the same way, except you'll add that its properly adjusted.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Door & Hinges

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Opens and closes and latches properly. Door seals not worn, torn, or dry rotten.

DANIEL'S TIP: Physically open the door and point out the Door Seals. Open and close the door several times to demonstrate that the door opens and closes and latches properly.





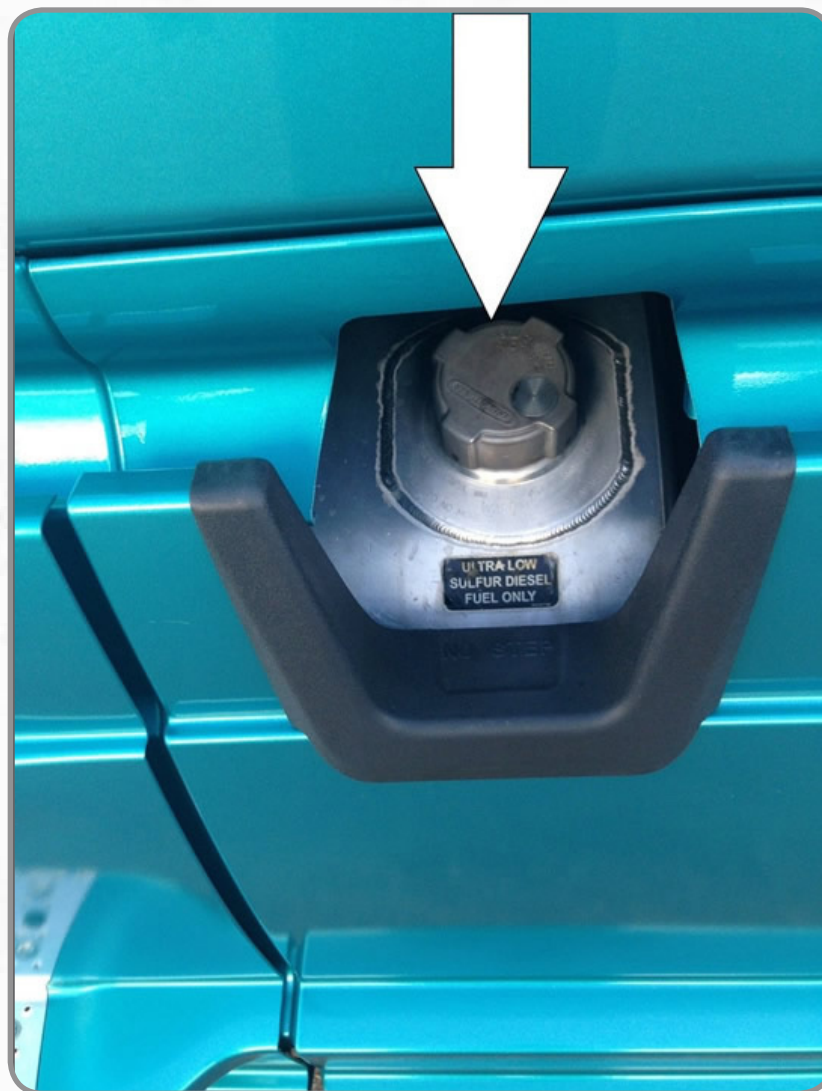
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Fuel Tank

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking from the tank and cap, cap is on tight.

DANIEL'S TIP: Be sure to say that it cannot be leaking from the Tank or Cap.





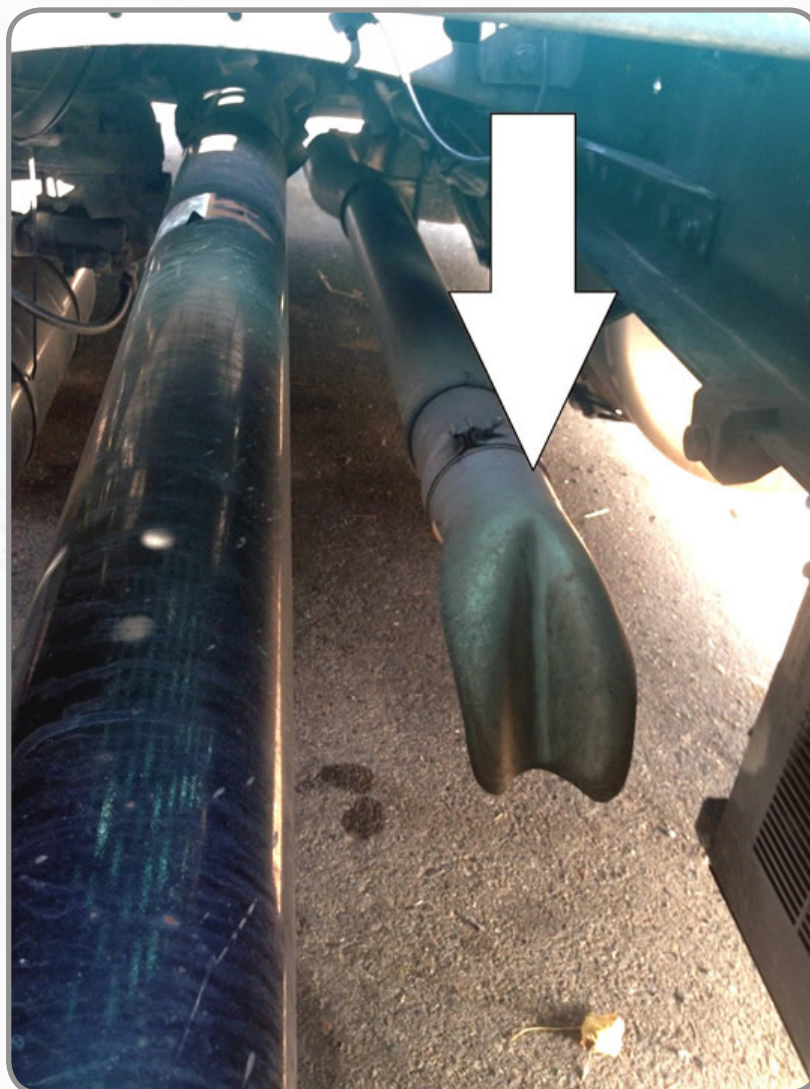
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Exhaust System

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. There are no signs of leaks.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy to miss because its not always in sight. Be sure to knock this out quickly to get it out of the way. Remember to look for no signs of leaks.





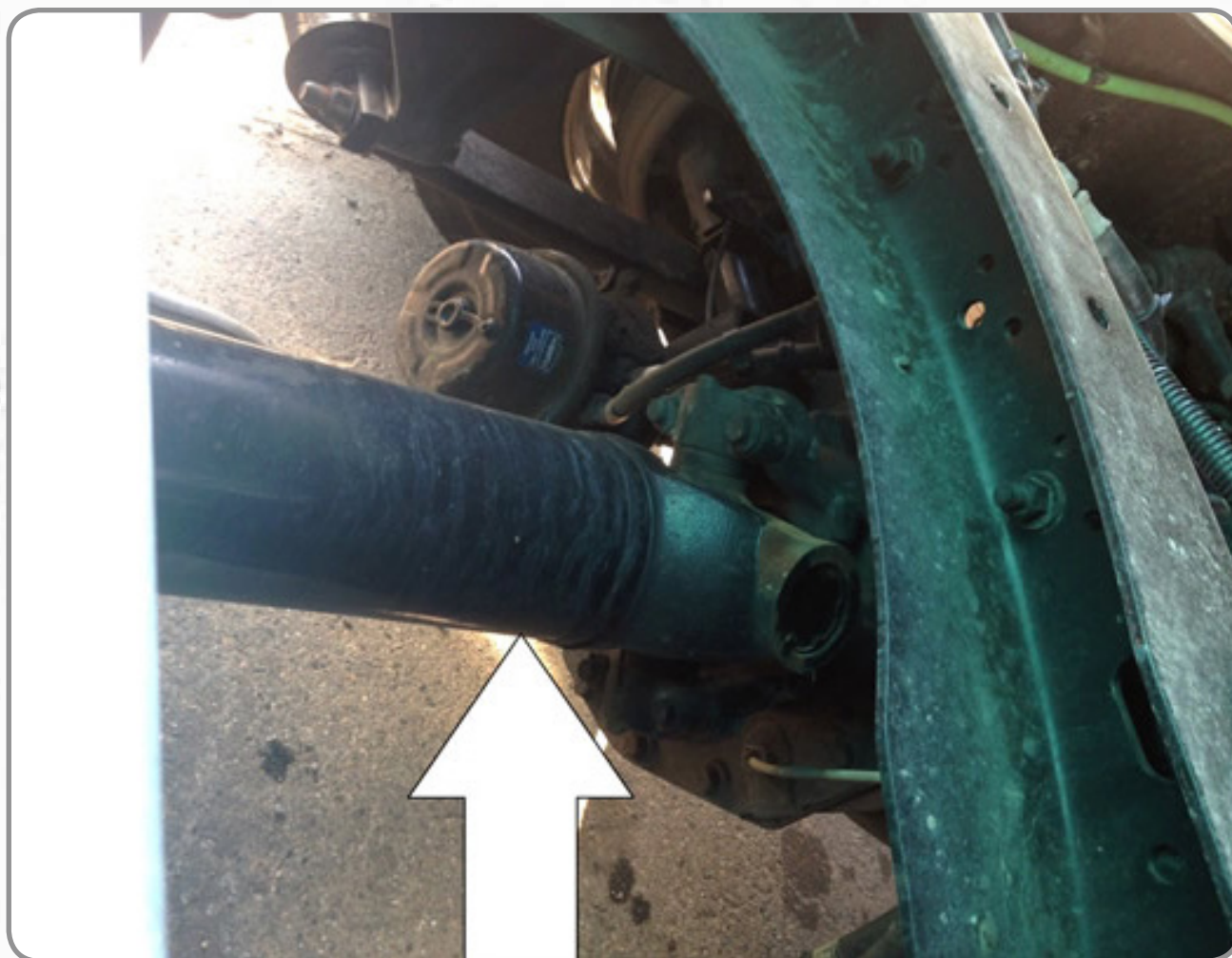
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Drive Shaft

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not twisted, and the U-joints are free of any debris.

DANIEL'S TIP: I like to knock out the Drive Shaft after the Exhaust just because its right next to it. No reason to skip around. Be sure to state that its not twisted and the U-Joints are free of any debris.





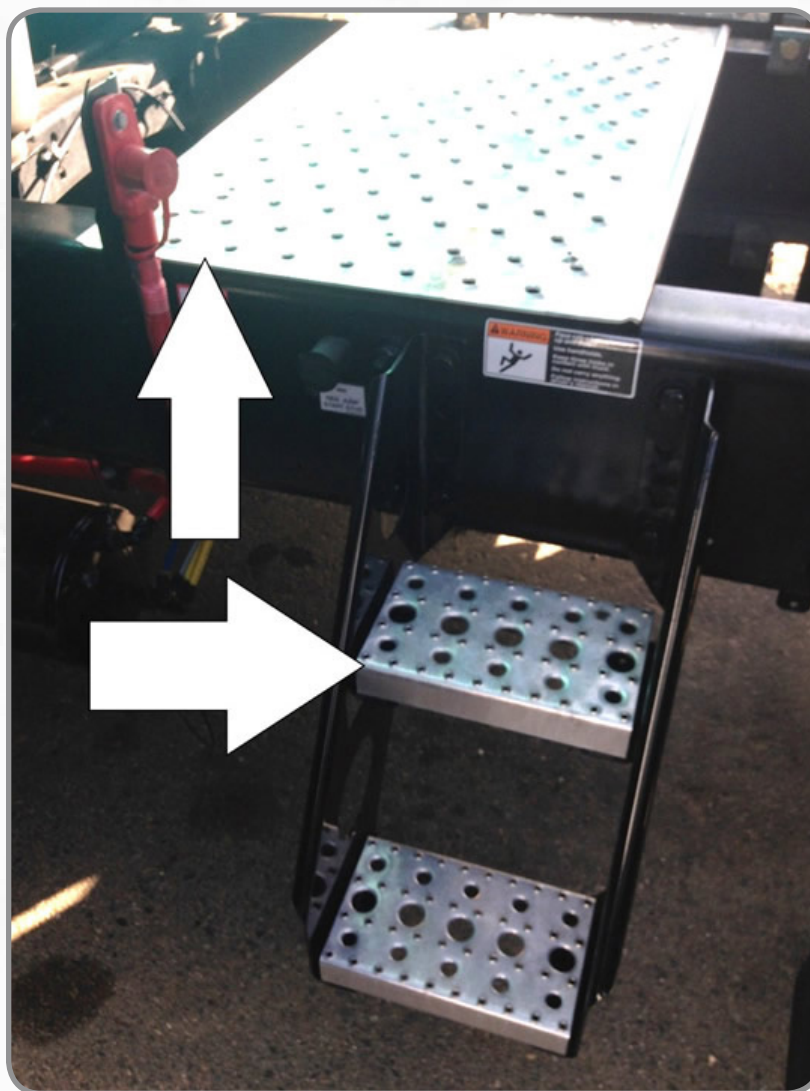
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Cat Walk and Steps

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Clear of any loose objects.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy item. Don't forget to state that they are clear of any loose objects.





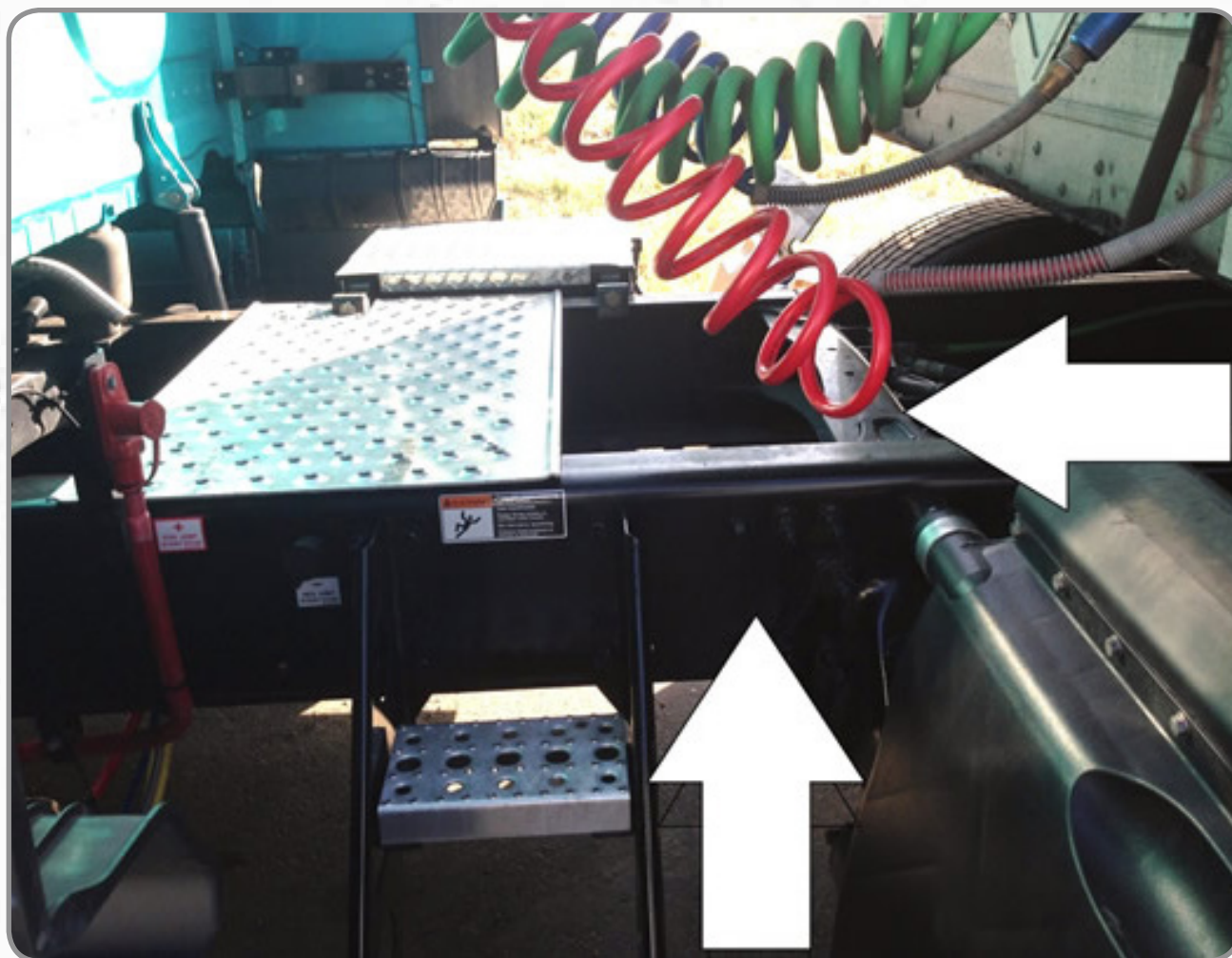
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Frame and Cross Members

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. There are no unauthorized holes or welds. No missing Cross Members.

DANIEL'S TIP: You can't miss that Frame, but the Cross Members can be easily forgotten. Bundle them up and be sure to state there are no missing Cross Members.





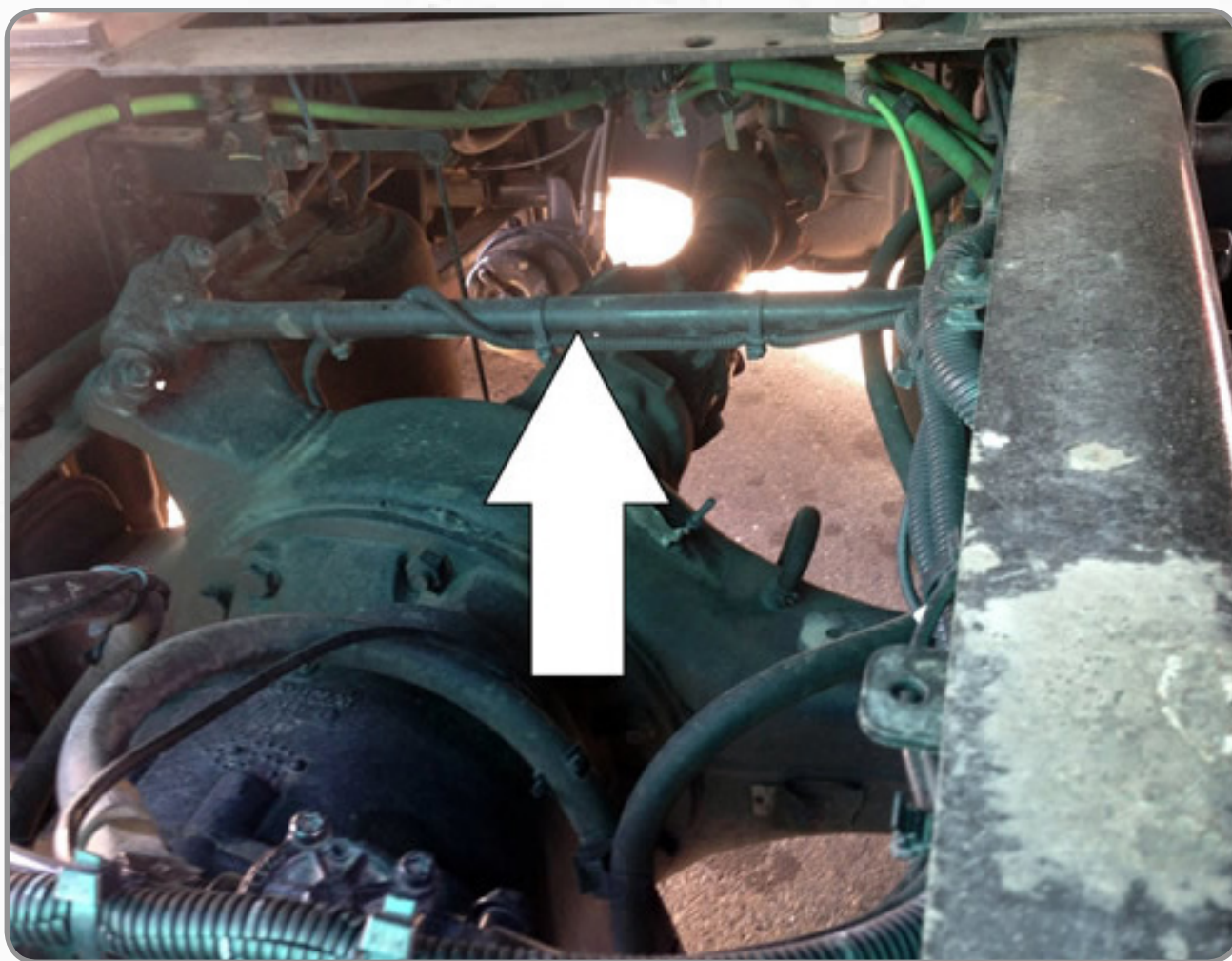
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Torque Arm

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy item. Extremely straightforward.



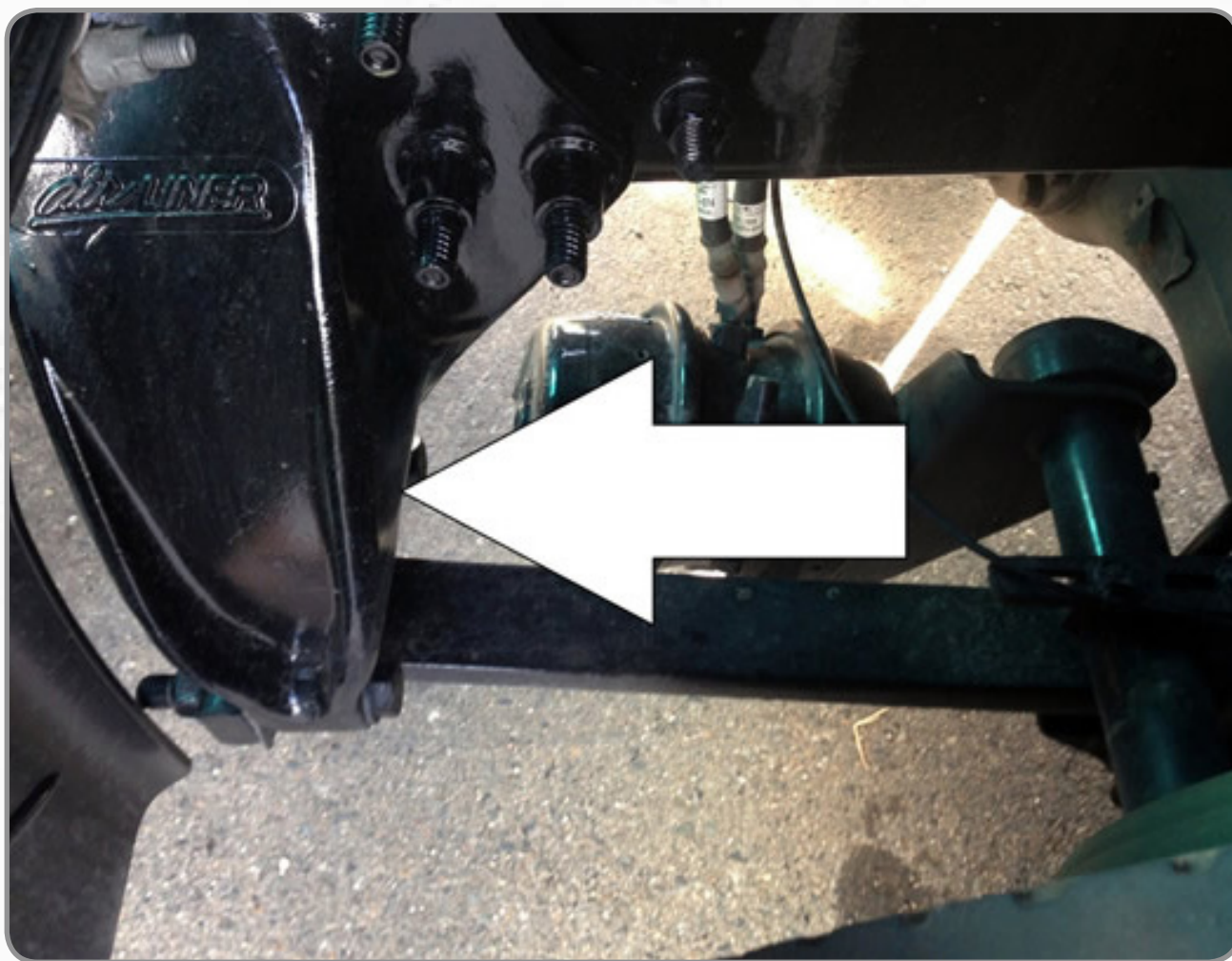
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Spring Mount

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Be sure to include "at both ends". Otherwise its a very easy item. Notice the difference between a Spring Hanger and a Spring Mount?





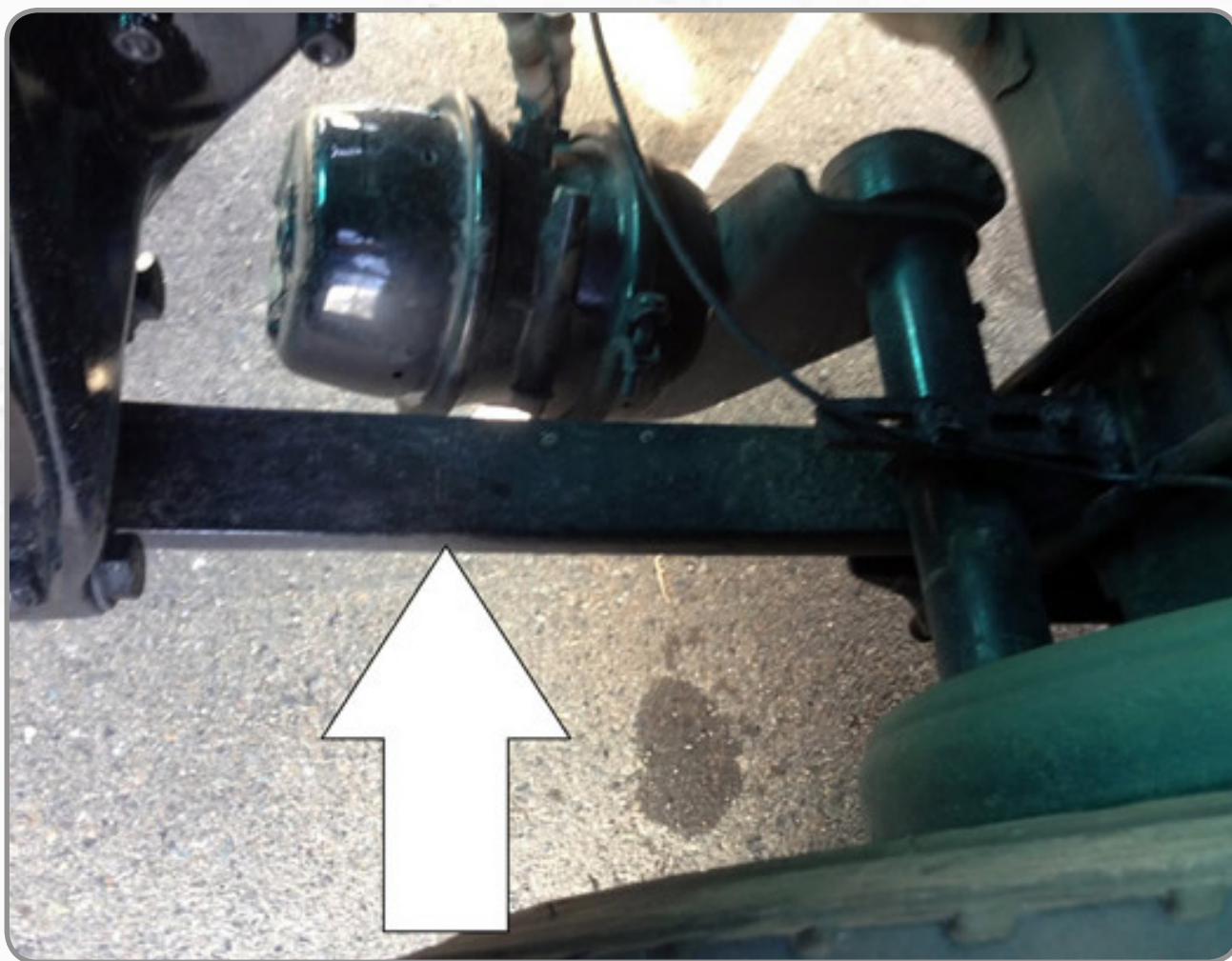
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Spring Arm

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: A Spring Arm is only one spring- unlike the Leaf Springs. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise because a lot of people have this confused. Don't forget to include "at both ends."





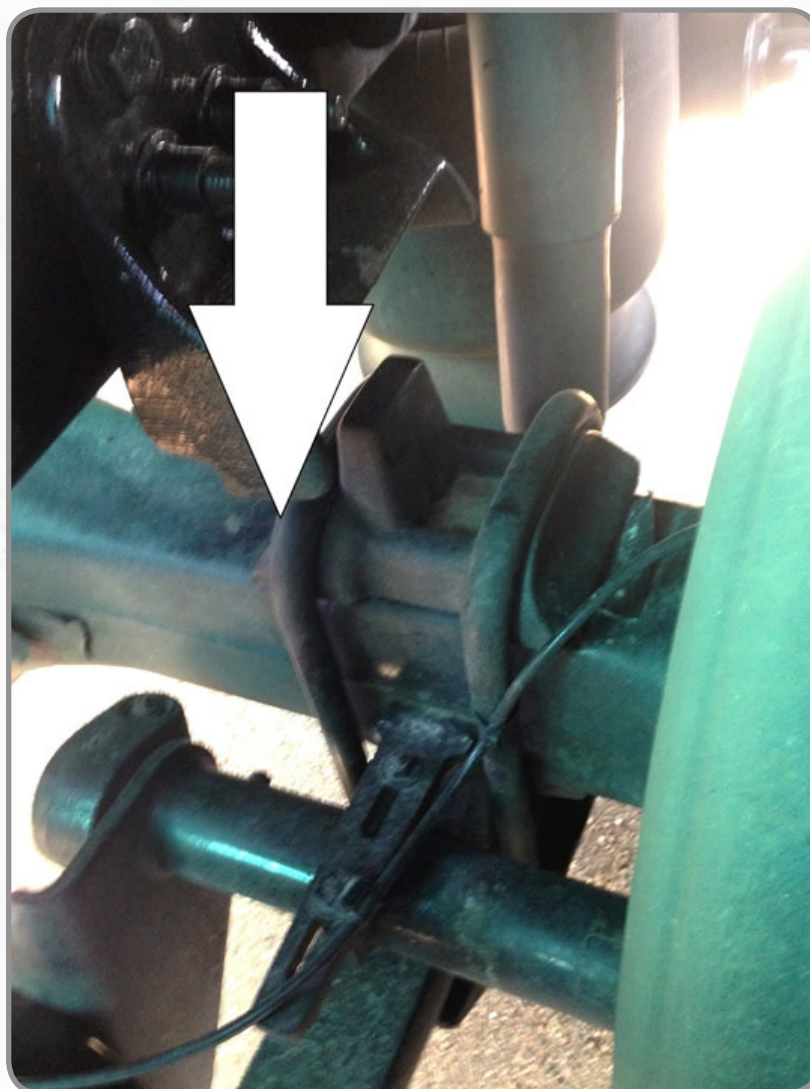
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

U-Bolts

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. None missing.

DANIEL'S TIP: Very simple item. Just be sure to say none are missing, that line is easily forgettable.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Shock Absorber

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't forget to say "at both ends" and "not leaking". If it'll leak, it'll leak at the point where the top and bottom portion of the Shock meet - in the Middle.





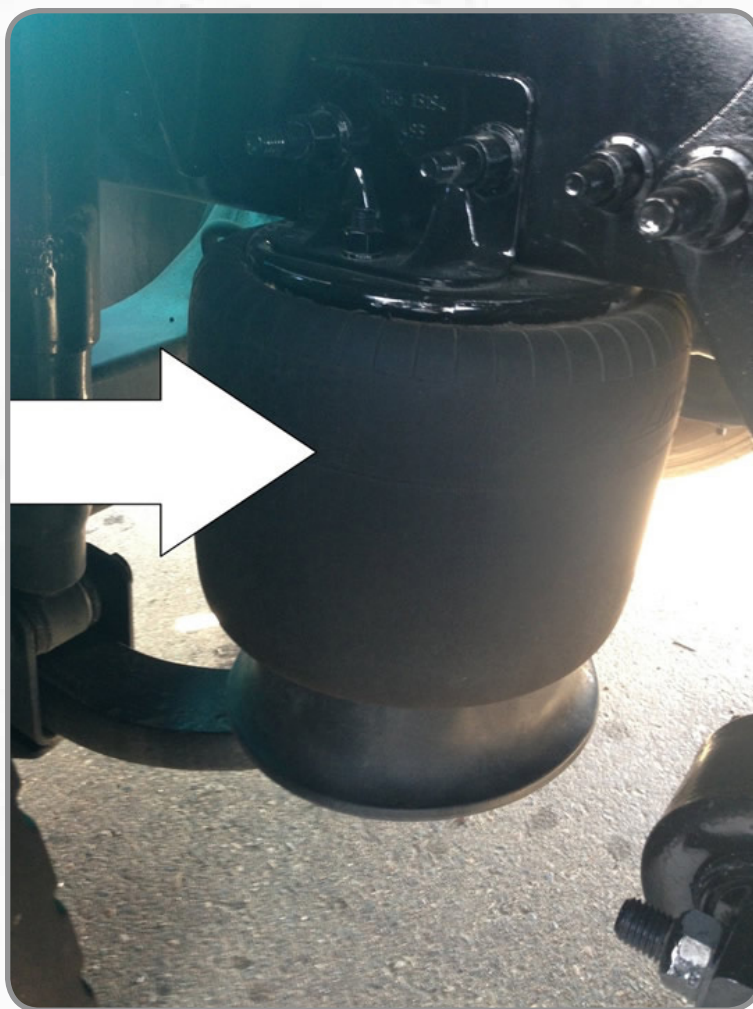
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Air Bag

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts. Not leaking. No missing mounting bolts.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't underestimate the Air Bag. Be sure to say its PMS at both ends. The top of the Air Bag is metal so give it a CBB. The actual Air Bag is rubber so give that an ABC. It is not leaking air and no missing mounting bolts. This is the one item that you must do a PMS, CBB, and ABC on!





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Brake Hose

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts. Not leaking air.

DANIEL'S TIP: Again, don't forgot to say "at both ends". The Hose is rubber so give it the ABC and not leaking air. You could combine the line with the Chamber but I prefer not to but its very easy to forget to mention the hose. When you're under pressure, you tend to forget the small things - like a hose.



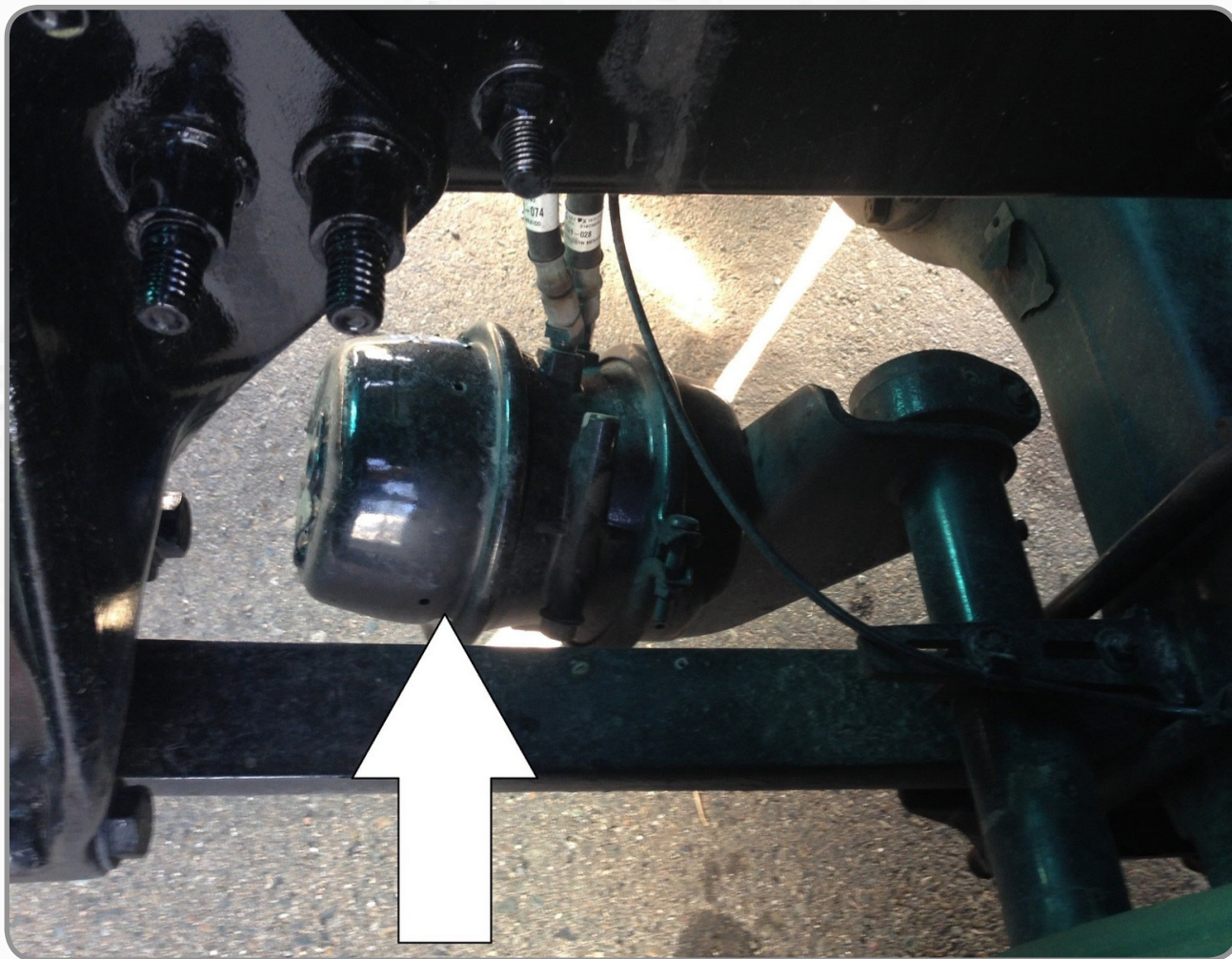
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Brake Chamber

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking air.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy item to inspect, don't forget to mention that it's not leaking air.





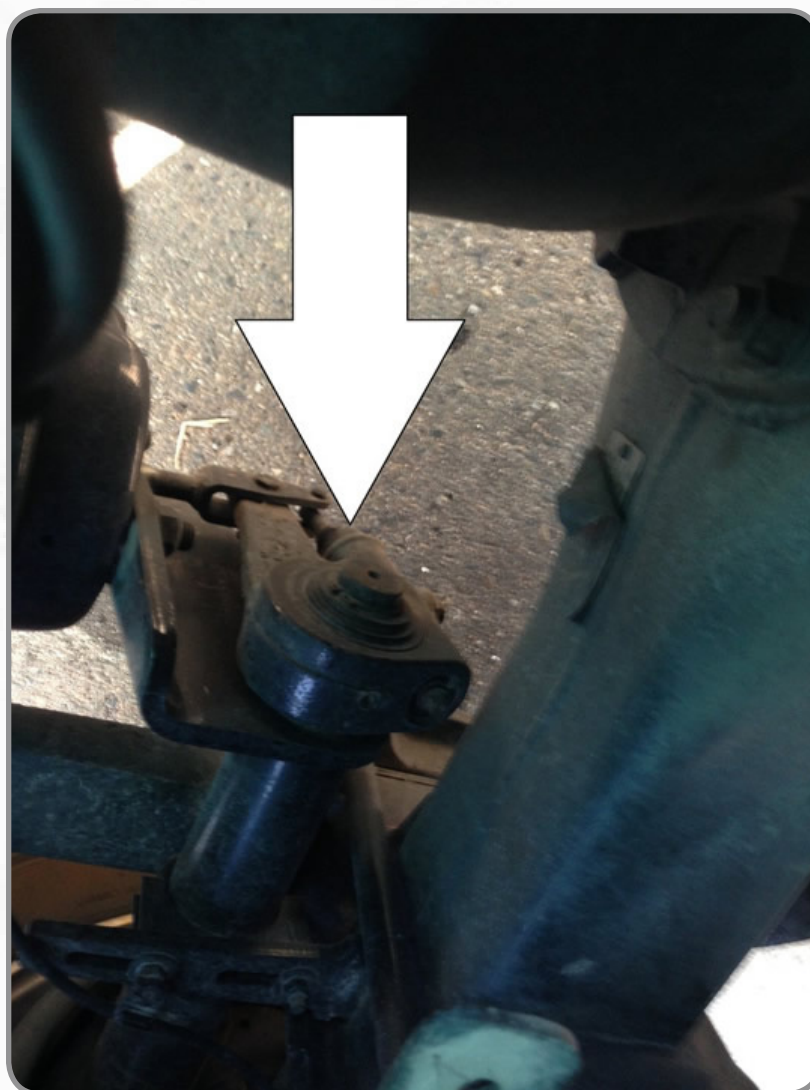
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Slack Adjuster and Push Rod

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. With the brakes released and pulled by hand, the Push Rod should not move more than 1 inch.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Slack Adjuster and Push Rod are always combined. Please, be very careful with your words on this one. Say it exactly how I wrote it! Memorize that line.



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Brake Drum

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy item to inspect. Just a simple PMS (properly mounted, secured) and CBB (cracked, broken, bent).





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Brake Lining

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No oil or debris. Friction Material is not worn dangerously thin.

DANIEL'S TIP: Remember, you're checking for oil or debris and for friction material on the Lining not on the Drum. People often mix this up. You must point exactly at the Brake Lining, like I have it in the picture.





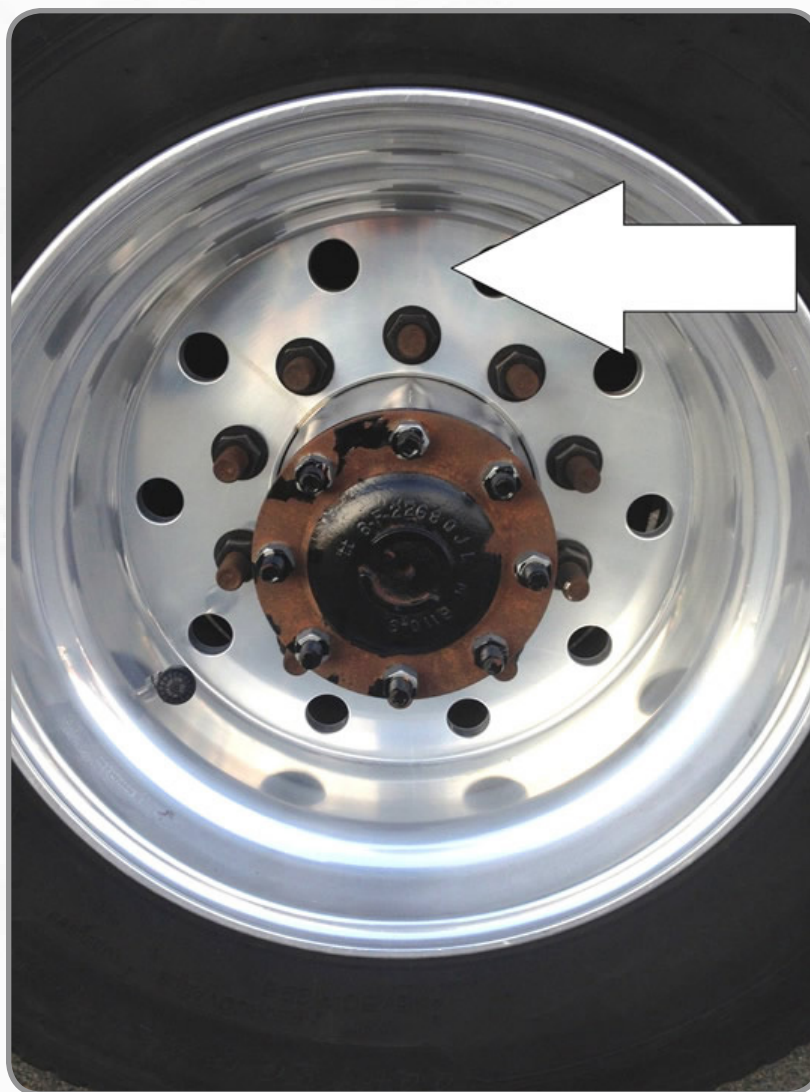
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Rim

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No unauthorized welds.

DANIEL'S TIP: Fairly simple item. Be sure to mention that there cannot be any unauthorized welds.





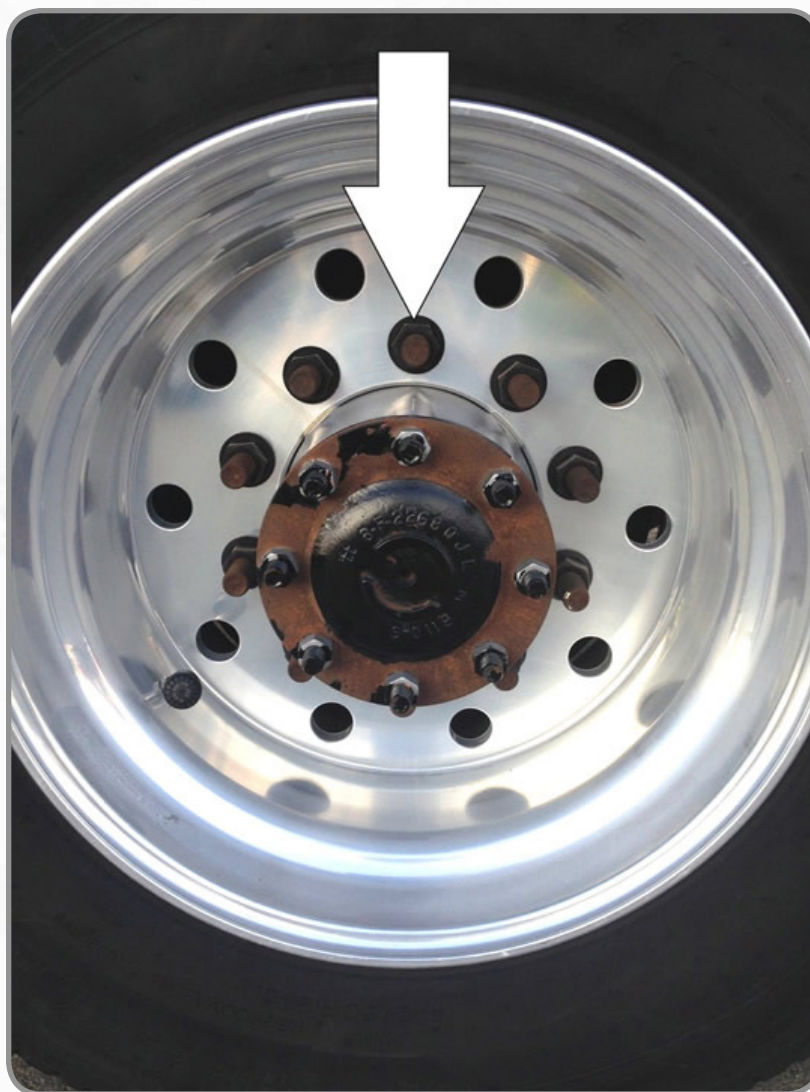
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Lug Nuts

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. There are none missing. No rust trails or powder residue. No cracks around the bolt holes.

DANIEL'S TIP: Rust trails could indicate loose bolts while powder residue and cracks around the bolts holes could be an indication of the bolts being over-tightened. Be sure to let the examiner know you're looking for rust trails or powder residue and no cracks around the bolt holes.





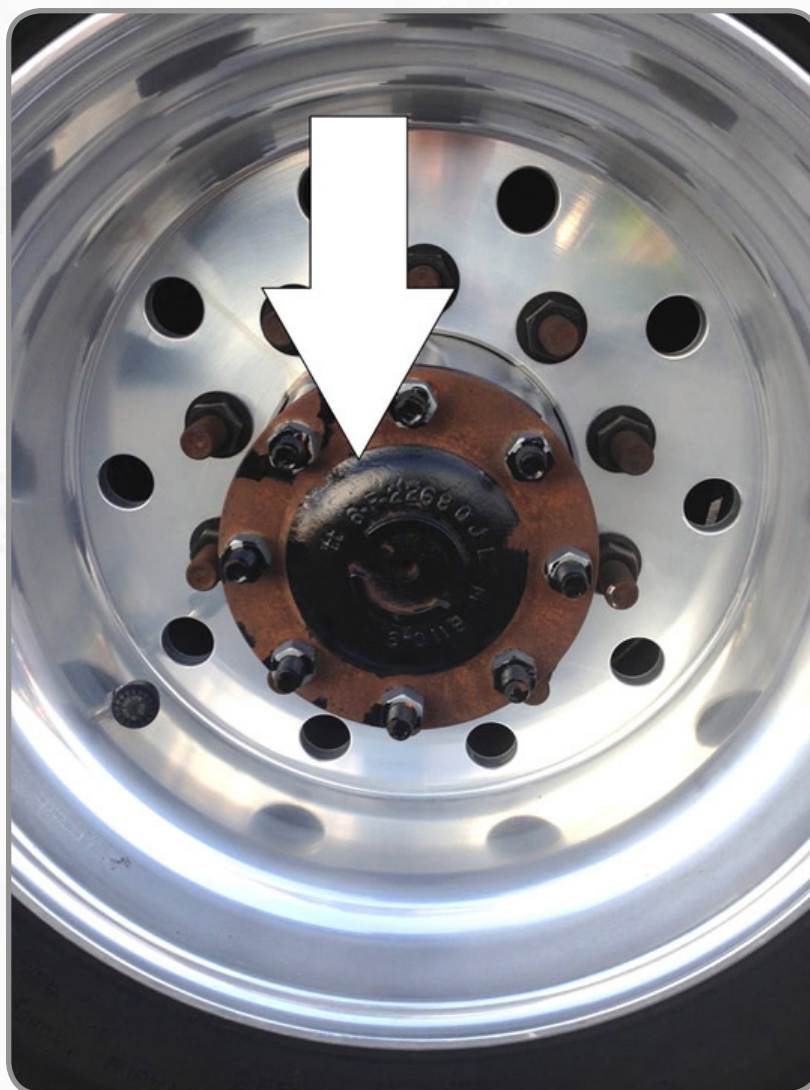
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Axle Seal

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking and filled to manufacturer's specifications.

DANIEL'S TIP: Just be sure to say that its filled to manufacturer's specifications.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Drive Tire

No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts to the tread or sidewalls. Tread depth is no less than 2/32 of an inch. Properly filled to manufacturer's specifications. Check it with an air gauge.

DANIEL'S TIP: Tires are a big deal! Be sure to look for Abrasions, Buldges or Cuts to the Tread and Sidewalls. Be sure to say it too. Drive tires cannot be less than 2/32 of an inch depth. You must say "of an inch", simply saying "2/32" is not enough. Properly filled to manufacturer's specifications and you absolutely must add that you check it with an air gauge! You don't have to physically check it with an air gauge on your exam, just mention that you would.





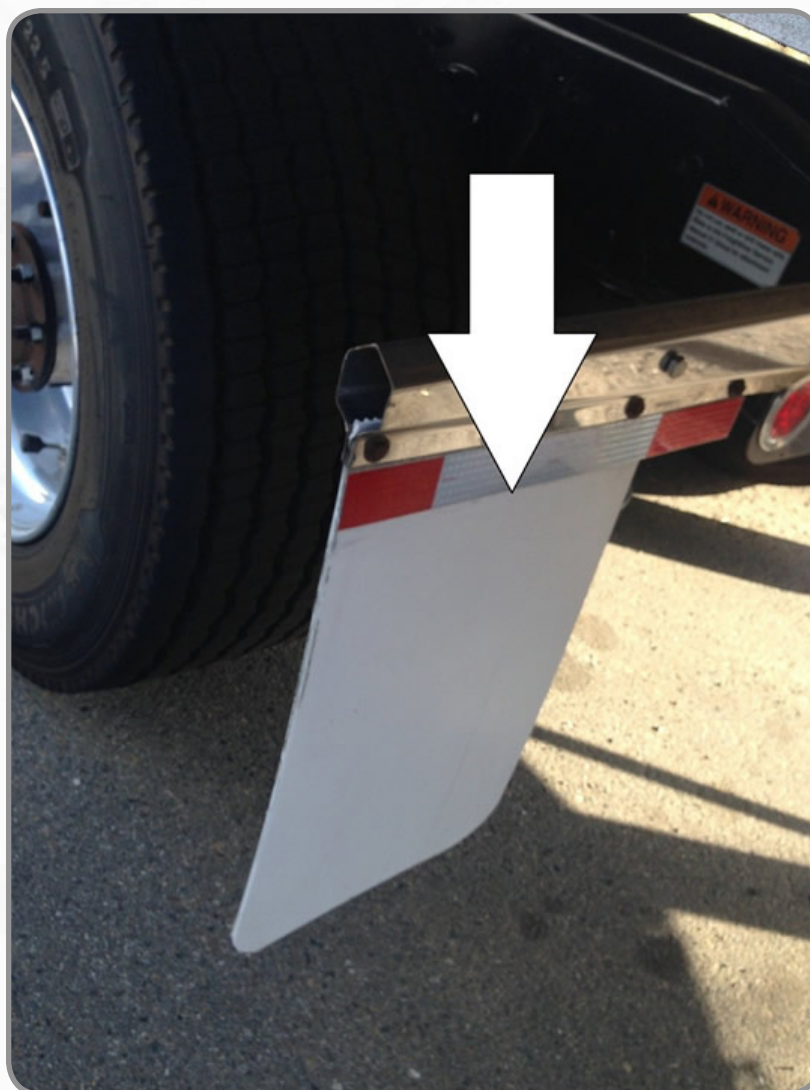
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Mudflap

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Simple item. Just a sidenote, don't forget the Reflective Tape on your Mudflap when you do your Light Test.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Driver's Door Fuel Area

Spacing

Only if your truck is equipped with duals! Check to see that there is proper space between the tires. There is nothing stuck between the tires.

DANIEL'S TIP: This only applies if you don't have Super Singles. Just let the examiner know you would check for proper space between the tires and making sure there's nothing stuck between them.





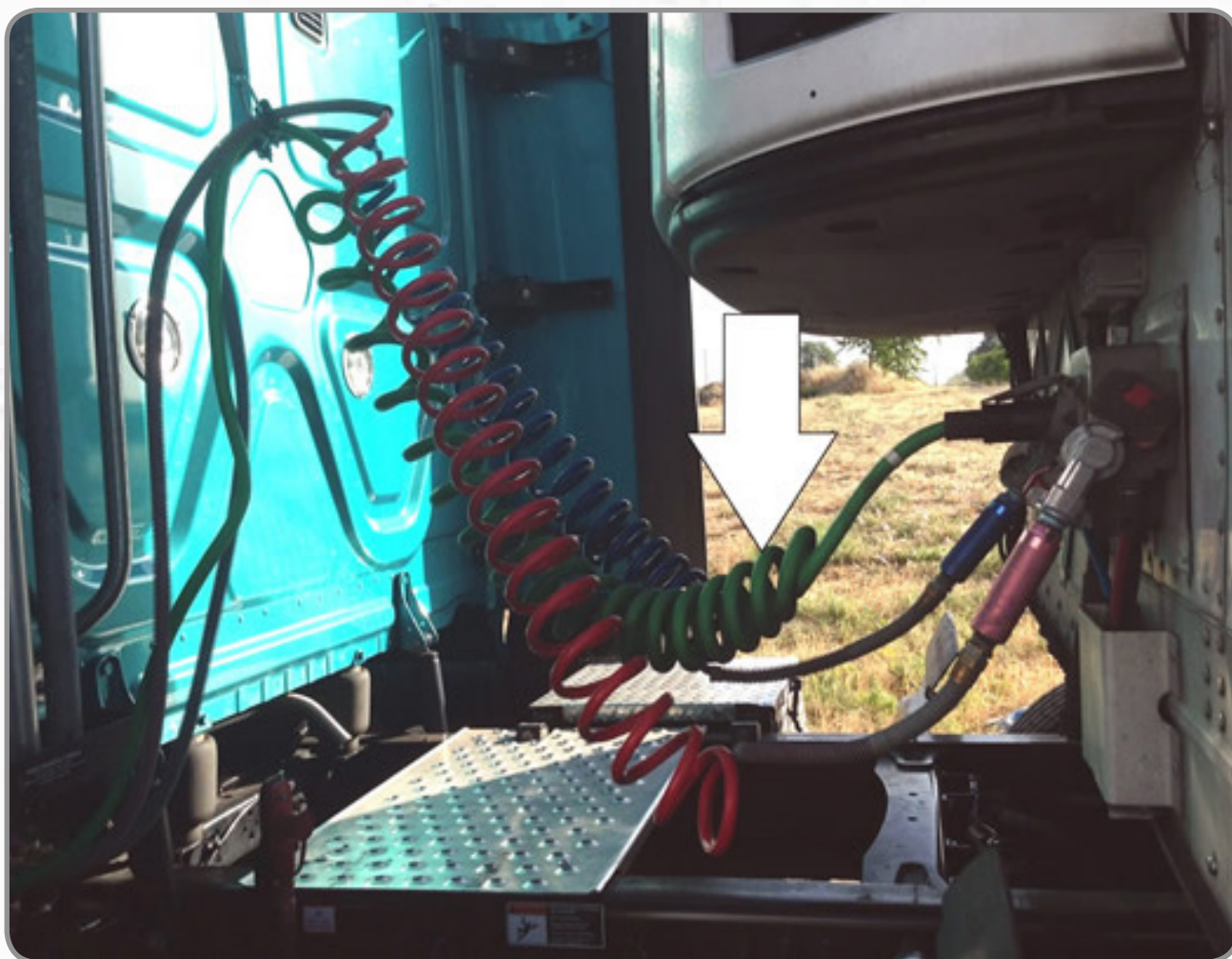
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Electric Line

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts. No exposed wires.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't forget "at both ends". Its really easy to forget to say "No exposed wires." so really make that line stick so you won't miss it on the exam.





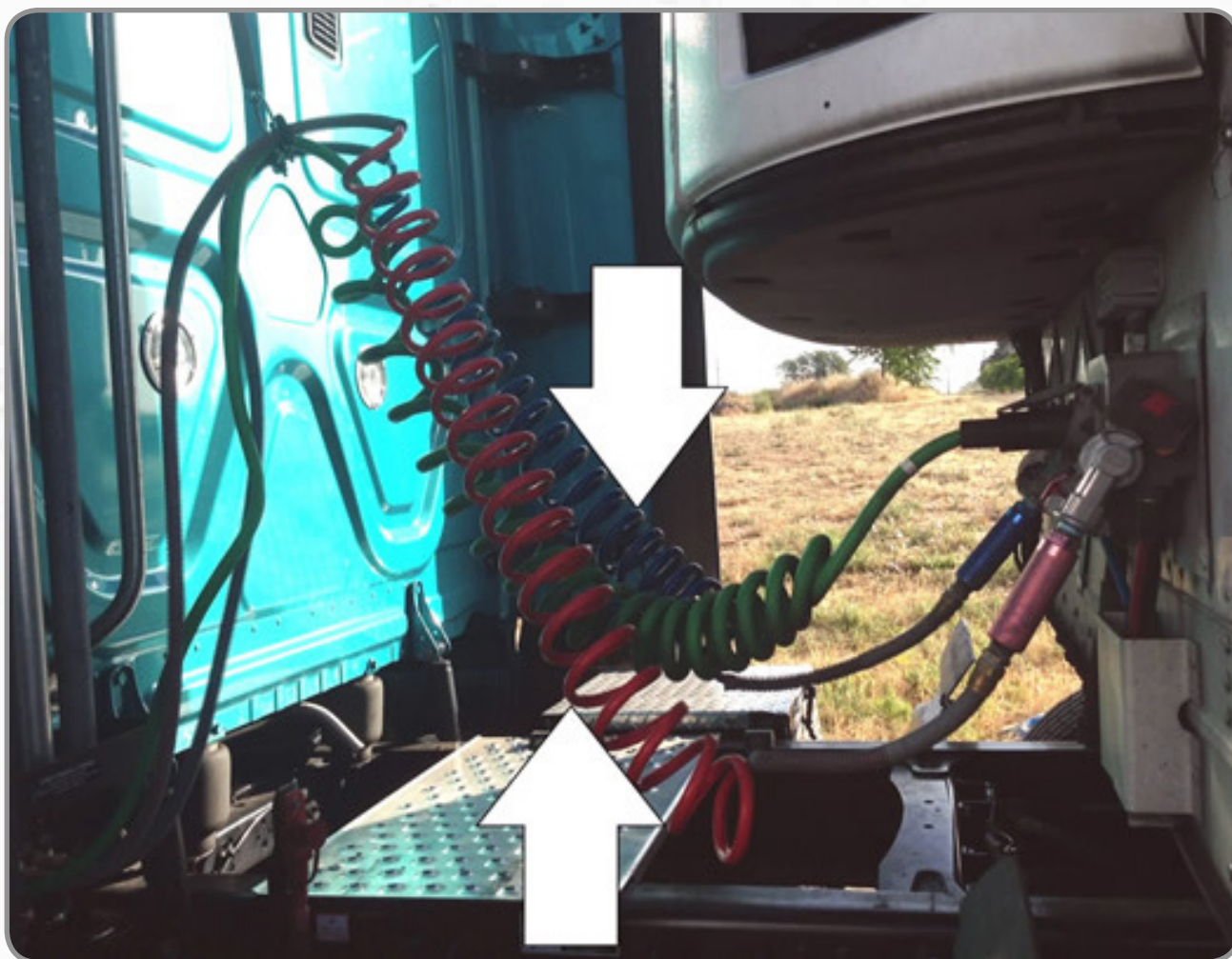
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Air Lines

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts. Not leaking air.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't forget to say "At both ends." Be sure to point at both the red and blue air line.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Glad Hands

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Seals are in good condition, no cracks or signs of dry rotting. Not leaking air.

DANIEL'S TIP: Take an air line off during the test so you can show the examiner the seals.





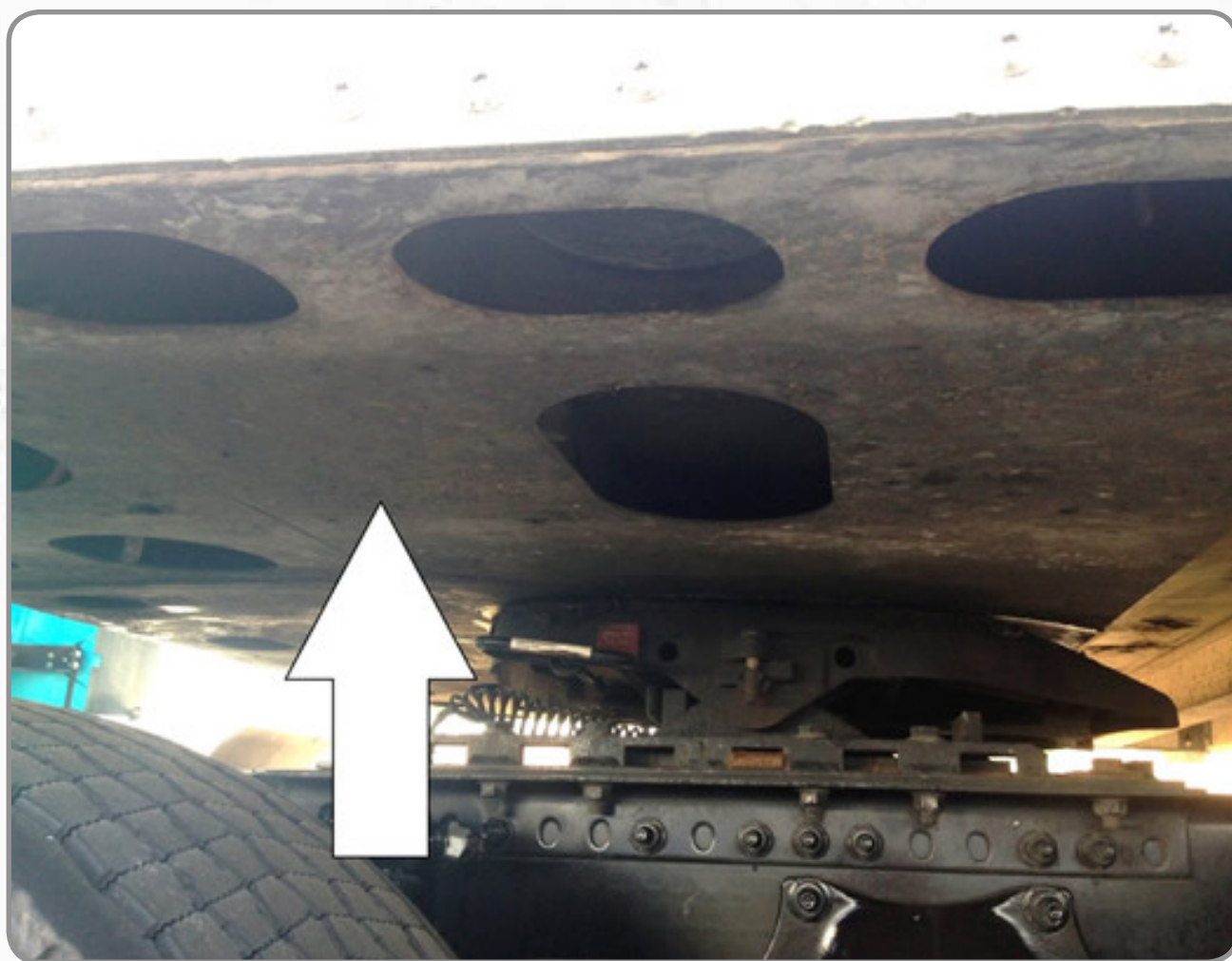
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Apron

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Apron is the front surface of the Trailer that the Fifth Wheel is beneath. Its the part of the trailer that doesn't have visible cross members and flat with a few holes.



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Skid Plate

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Properly lubed.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Skid Plate is the top slippery surface of the Fifth Wheel. It must be properly lubed.





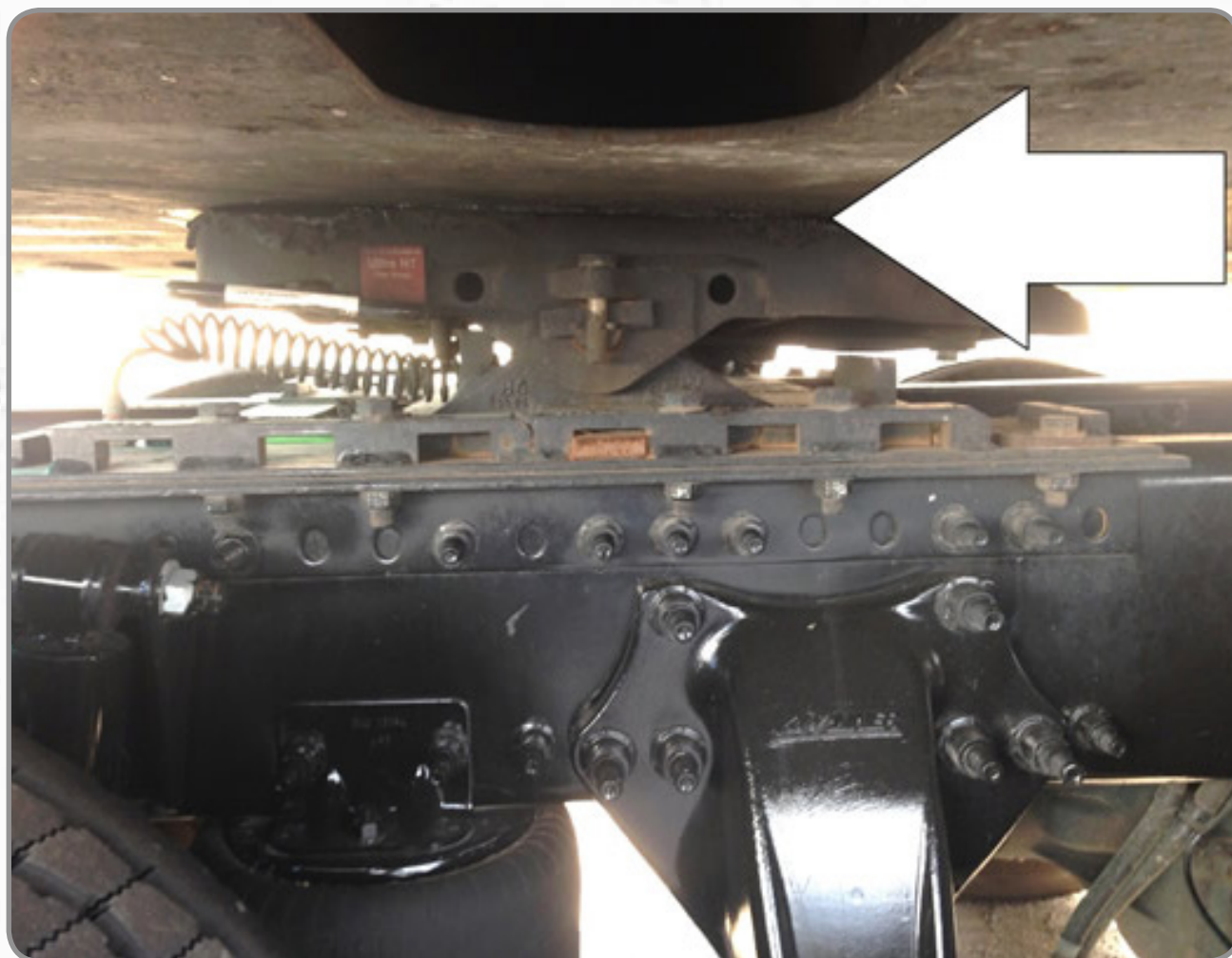
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Gap

Check to make sure that there is no space between the Apron and Skid Plate.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Gap is not an actual item. Its the space between the Apron and the Skid Plate. There should be no daylight between the Apron and Skid Plate.





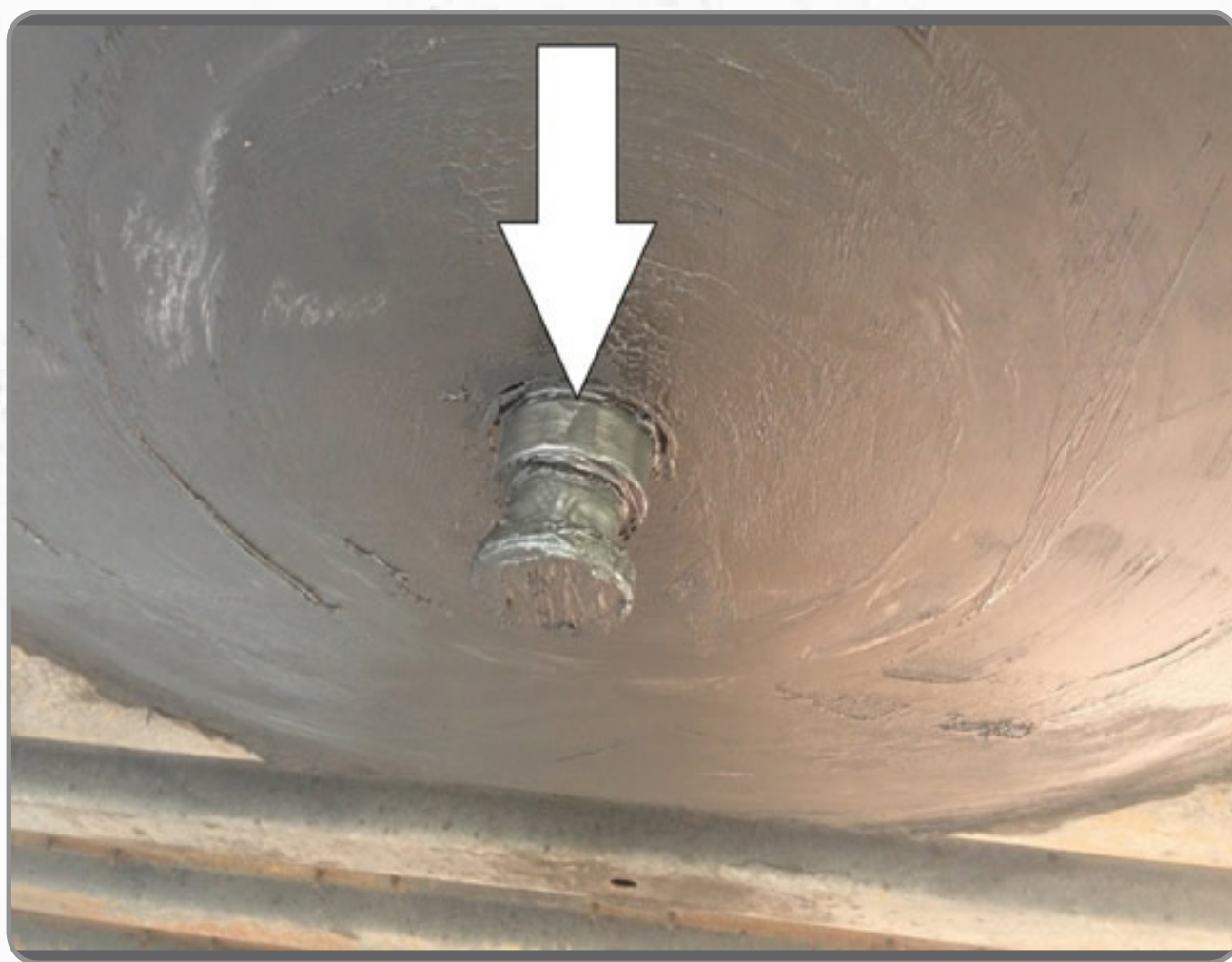
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

King Pin

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Can be easy to miss because you can't see it. But please don't miss something so important as the King Pin. Engrave this into your head.





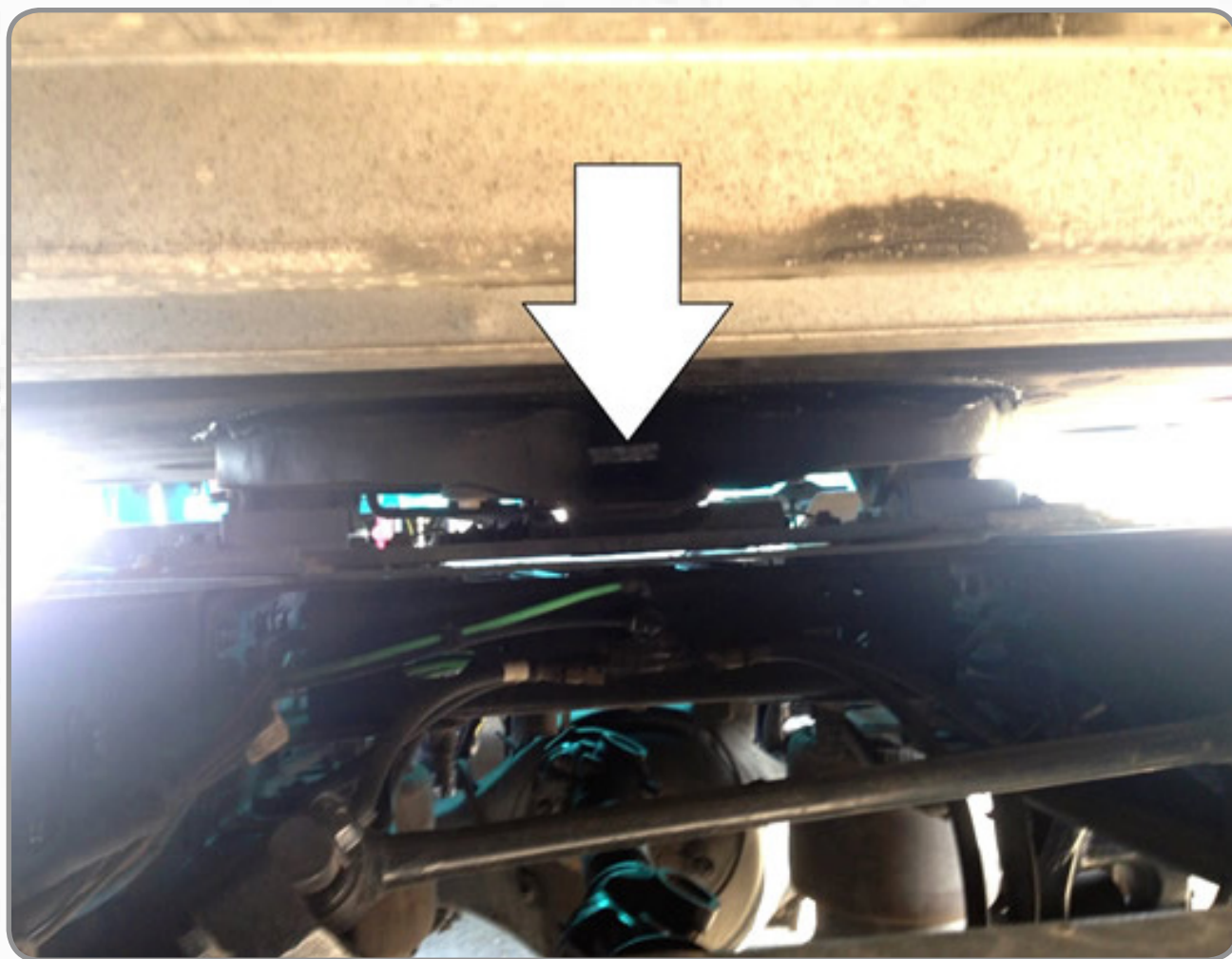
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Locking Jaws

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Fully locked around the King Pin.

DANIEL'S TIP: On your exam you must bend down and physically check those Locking Jaws, just like you should be doing every day several times. Be sure to say its fully locked around the King Pin.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Platform

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Platform is what the Fifth Wheel rests on. It goes Frame, then Platform, then Fifth Wheel. The Platform is easy to inspect, feel free to combine it with the Mounting Bolts. But again, I choose not to.



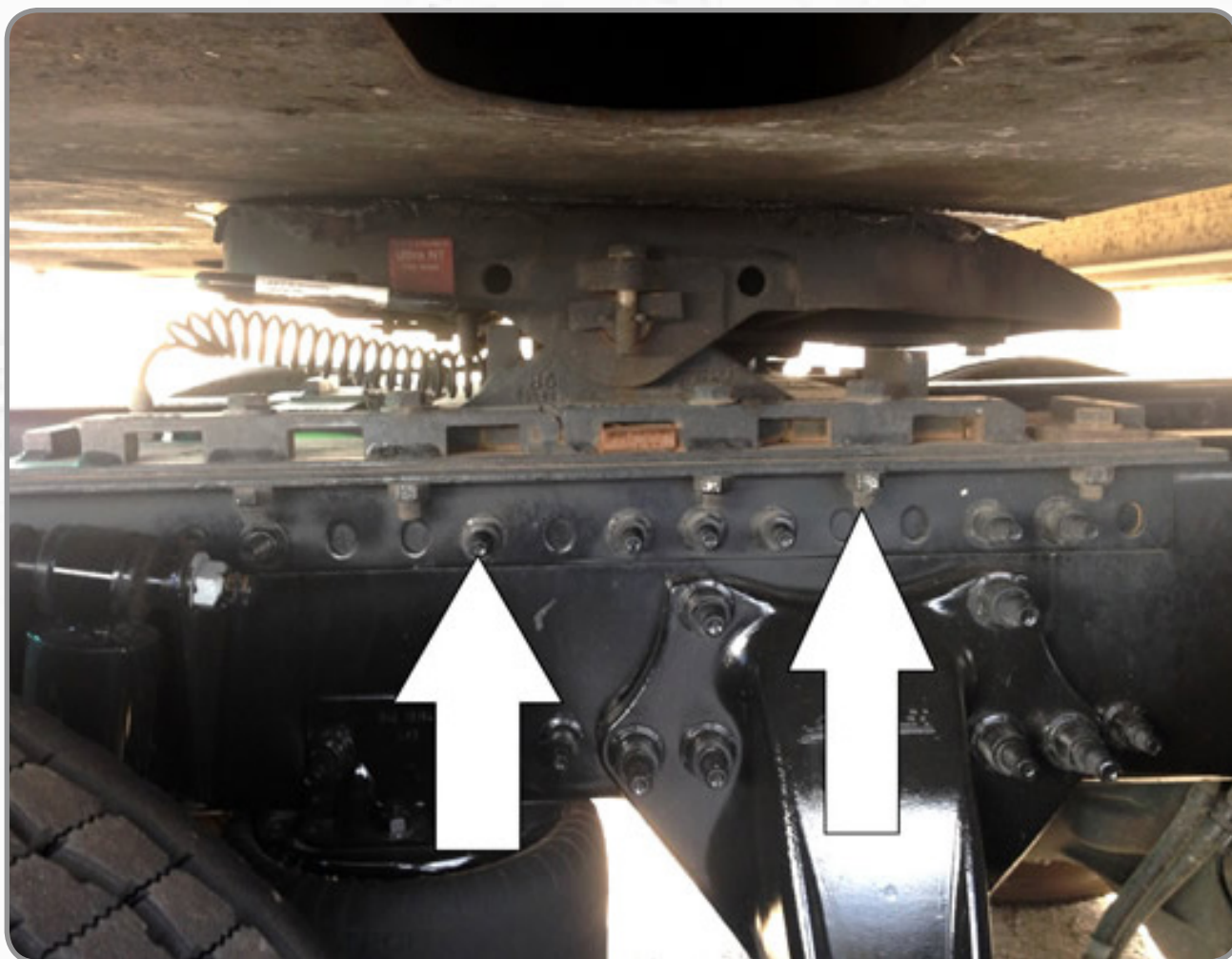
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Mounting Bolts

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. None missing.

DANIEL'S TIP: Technically, you could combine this with the Platform but I choose not to. Up to you. Be sure to point at the bolts and don't forget to say none missing.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Release Arm

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Is in the fully locked position.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Release Arm is what allows you to disengage the Locking Jaws. The handle, or Arm, must be in the fully locked position. You must say that!





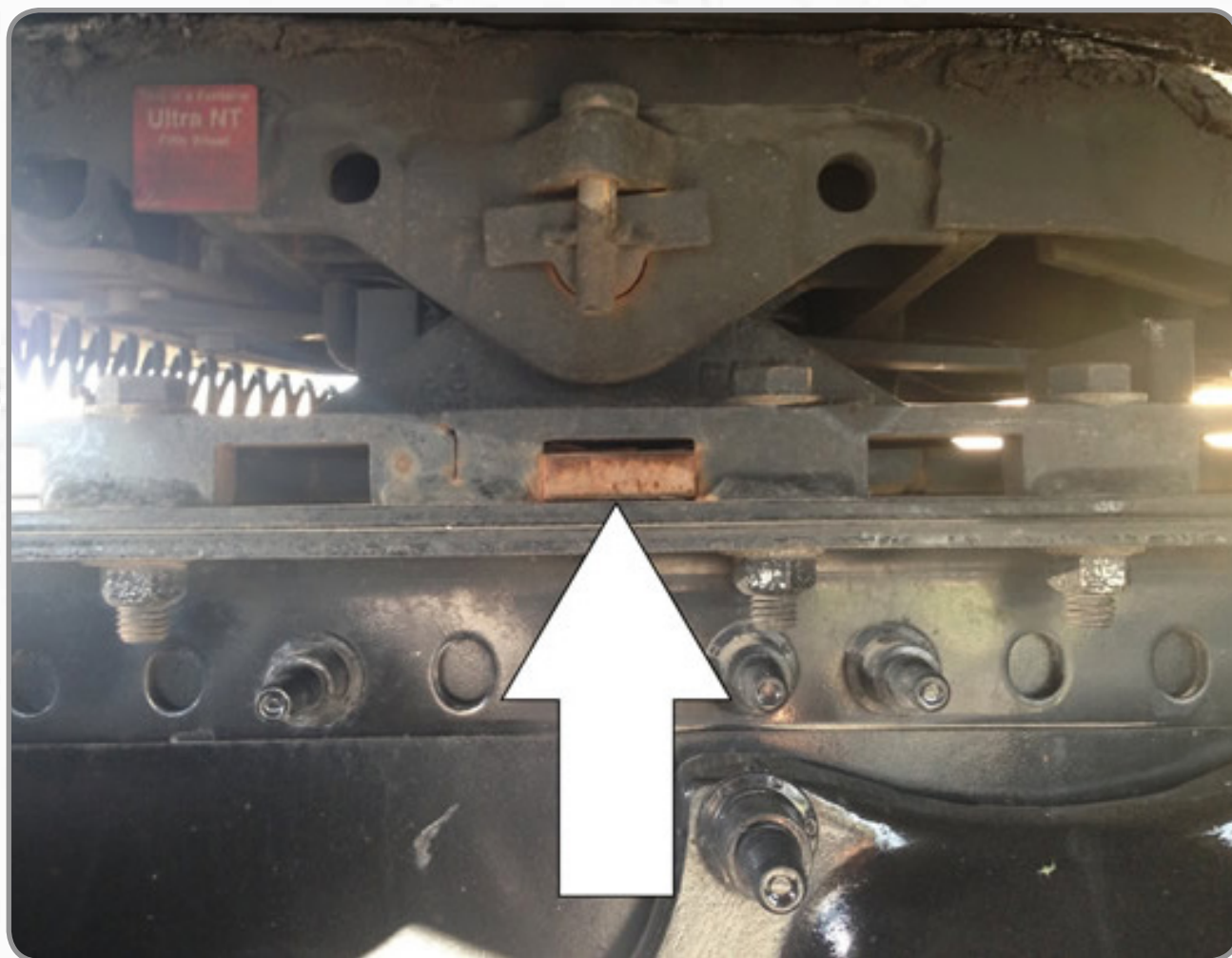
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Sliding Fifth Wheel And Locking Pin

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Is in the fully locked position.

DANIEL'S TIP: Remember to point at the Sliding area and the Locking Pin. It must be in the fully locked position. You must say that!





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Coupling System

Clearance

Make sure that there is the proper space between the tractor mudflap and the trailer landing gear. So that they don't hit each other when making a turn.

DANIEL'S TIP: Clearance is by far the easiest to forget of everything in the entire test! I kid you not. Please engrave this into your head. You want to check the space between your mudflap and landing gear, so they don't hit each other on a turn.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Header Board

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No holes or missing rivets.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Header Board is the front wall of the trailer. You must say that it cannot have any holes or missing rivets.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Landing Gear

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Is fully raised and the cradle handle is secure.

DANIEL'S TIP: The hardest thing about the Landing Gear is that handle. It must be in the cradle and secure. The Landing Gear must be fully raised.





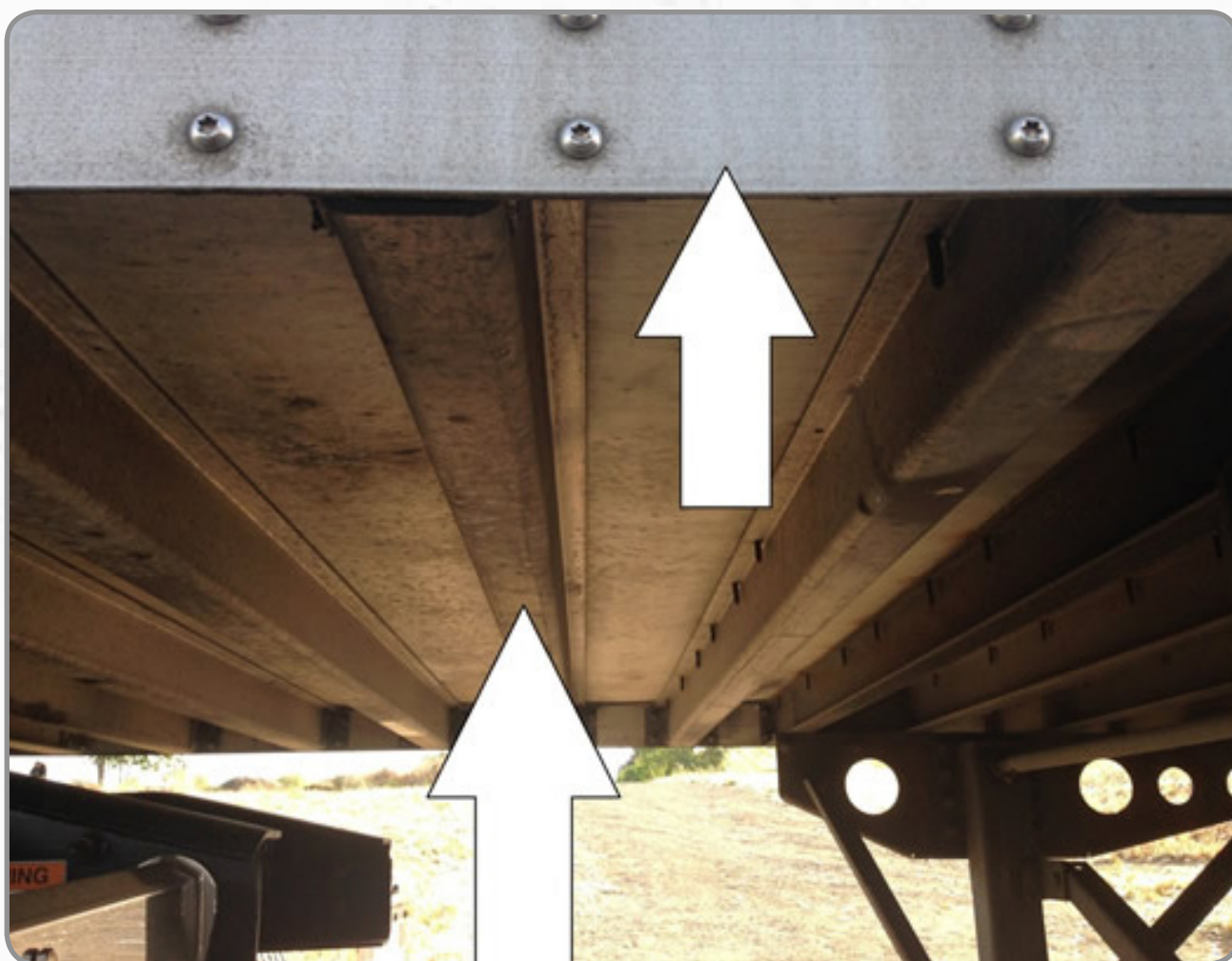
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Frame and Cross Members

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No missing Cross Members.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Frame is the bottom portion on the walls of the trailer. Don't get that mixed up. The Cross Members go side-to-side throughout the trailer, there cannot be any missing.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Tandem Frame and Release

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Release handle and locking pins are in the fully locked position.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Tandem Frame is the frame for the tandems. The Tandem Release is the actual handle that releases the Pins. You must also check the Pins, they must be in the fully locked position.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Shock Absorber

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't forget to say "at both ends" and "not leaking". If it'll leak, it'll leak at the point where the top and bottom portion of the Shock meet - in the Middle.





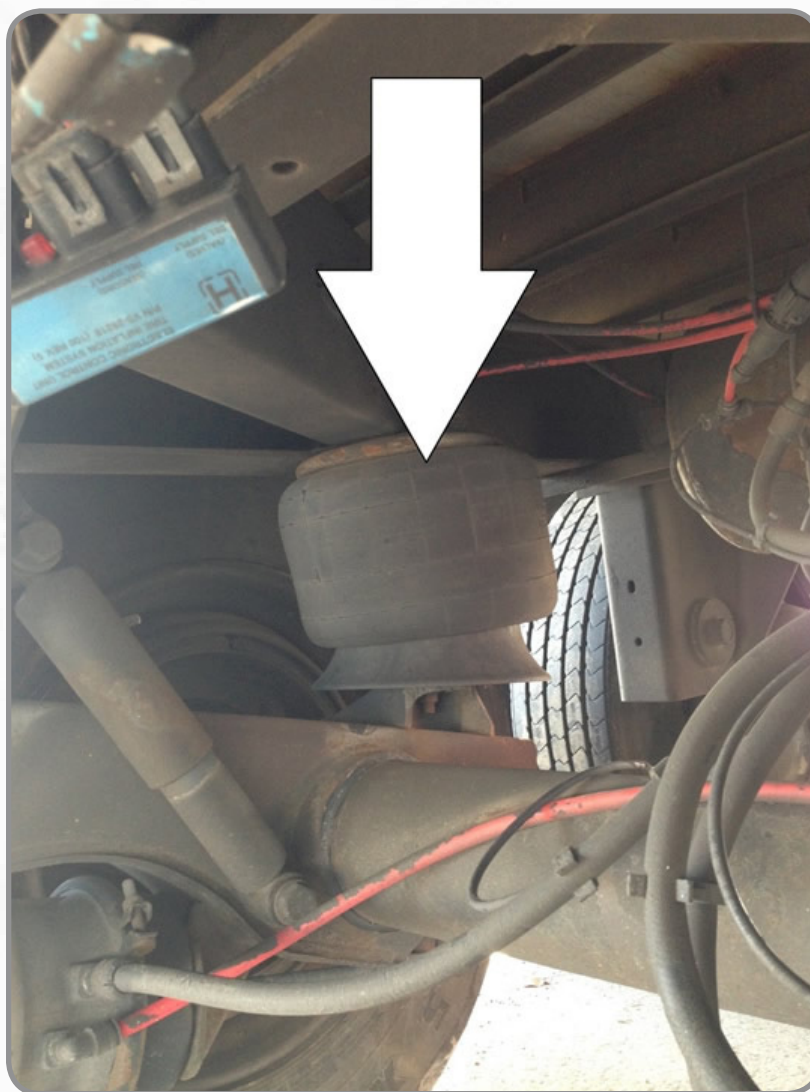
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Air Bag

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts. Not leaking air. No missing mounting bolts.

DANIEL'S TIP: Don't underestimate the Air Bag. Be sure to say its PMS at both ends. The top of the Air Bag is metal so give it a CBB. The actual Air Bag is rubber so give that an ABC. It is not leaking air and no missing mounting bolts. This is the one item that you must do a PMS, CBB, and ABC on!





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Brake Hose

Properly Mounted and Secure at both ends. No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts. Not leaking air.

DANIEL'S TIP: Again, don't forgot to say "at both ends". The Hose is rubber so give it the ABC and not leaking air. You could combine the line with the Chamber but I prefer not to but its very easy to forget to mention the hose. When you're under pressure, you tend to forget the small things - like a hose.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Brake Chamber

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking air.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy item to inspect, don't forget to mention that it's not leaking air.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Slack Adjuster and Push Rod

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. With the brakes released and pulled by hand, the Push Rod should not move more than 1 inch.

DANIEL'S TIP: The Slack Adjuster and Push Rod are always combined. Please, be very careful with your words on this one. Say it exactly how I wrote it! Memorize that line. The ones in the back look a lot different than the ones on the Steer axle, but that shouldn't impact you on your performance.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

BRAKE DRUM

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Easy item to inspect. Just a simple PMS and CBB.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

BRAKE LINING

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No oil or debris. Friction Material is not worn dangerously thin.

DANIEL'S TIP: Remember, you're checking for oil or debris and for friction material on the Lining not on the Drum. People often mix this up. You must point exactly at the Brake Lining, like I have it in the picture.





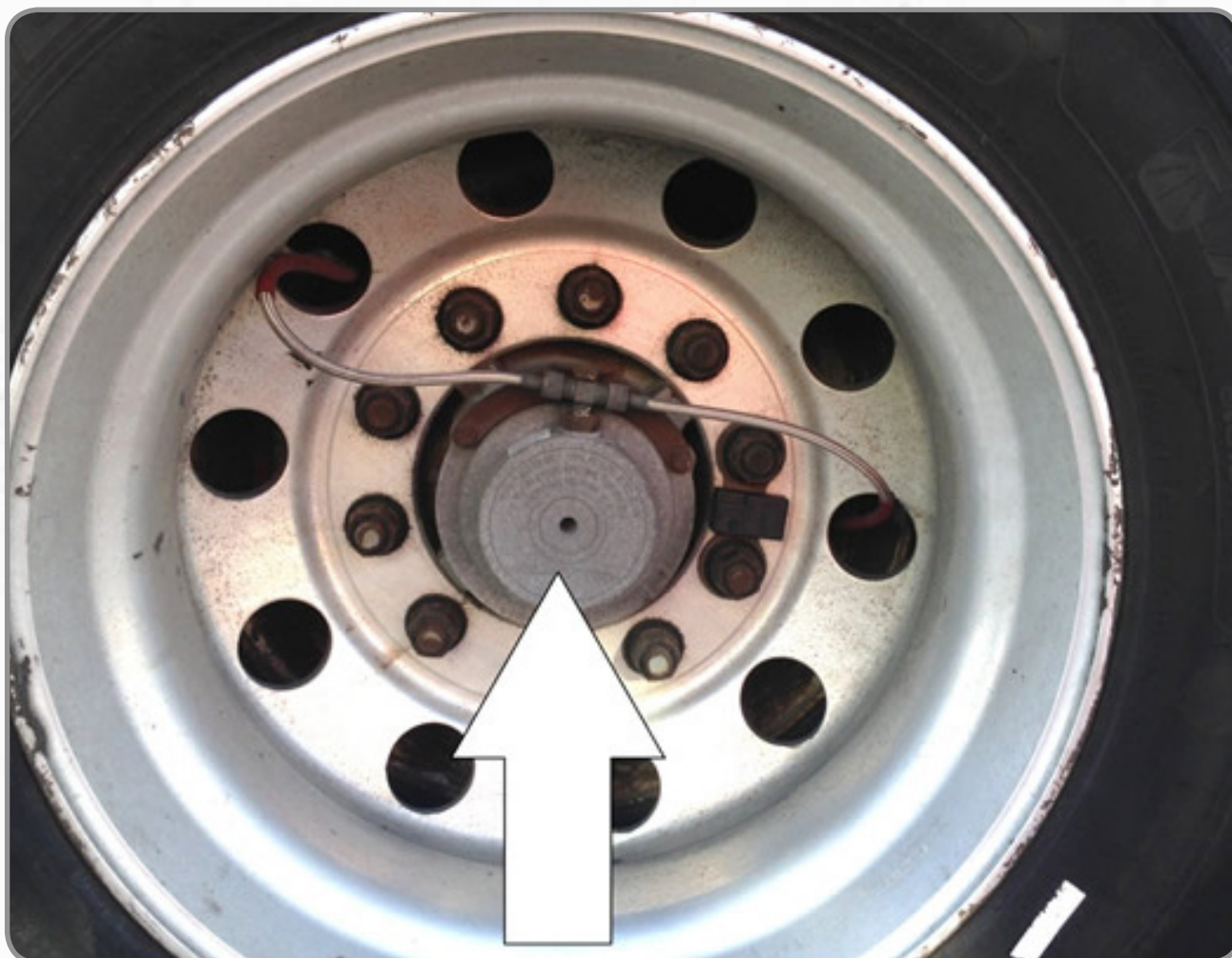
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Axle Seal

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Not leaking and filled to manufacturer's specifications.

DANIEL'S TIP: Just be sure to say that its filled to manufacturer's specifications.





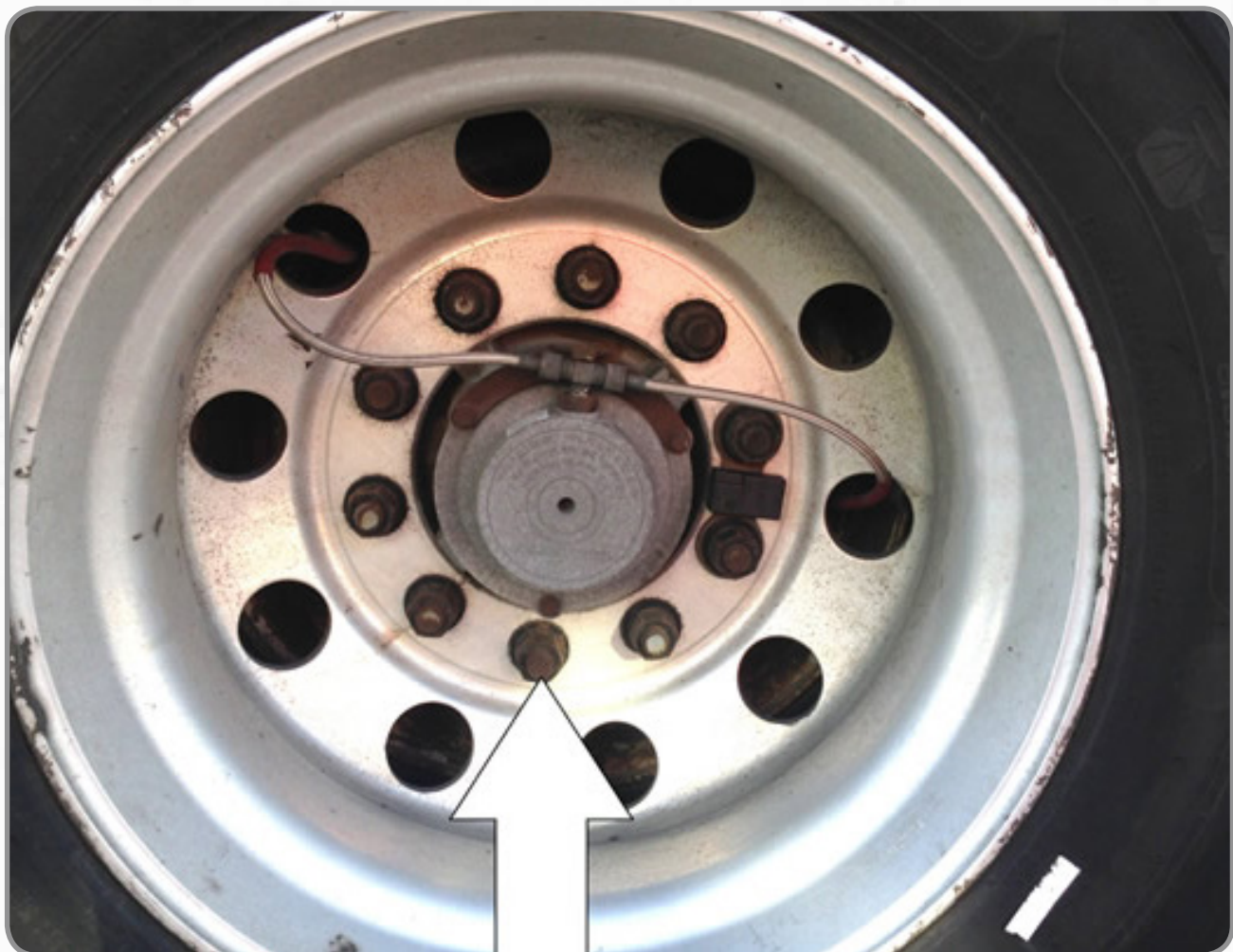
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Lug Nuts

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. There are none missing. No rust trails or powder residue. No cracks around the bolt holes.

DANIEL'S TIP: Rust trails could indicate loose bolts while powder residue and cracks around the bolts holes could be an indication of the bolts being over-tightened. Be sure to let the examiner know you're looking for rust trails or powder residue and no cracks around the bolt holes.





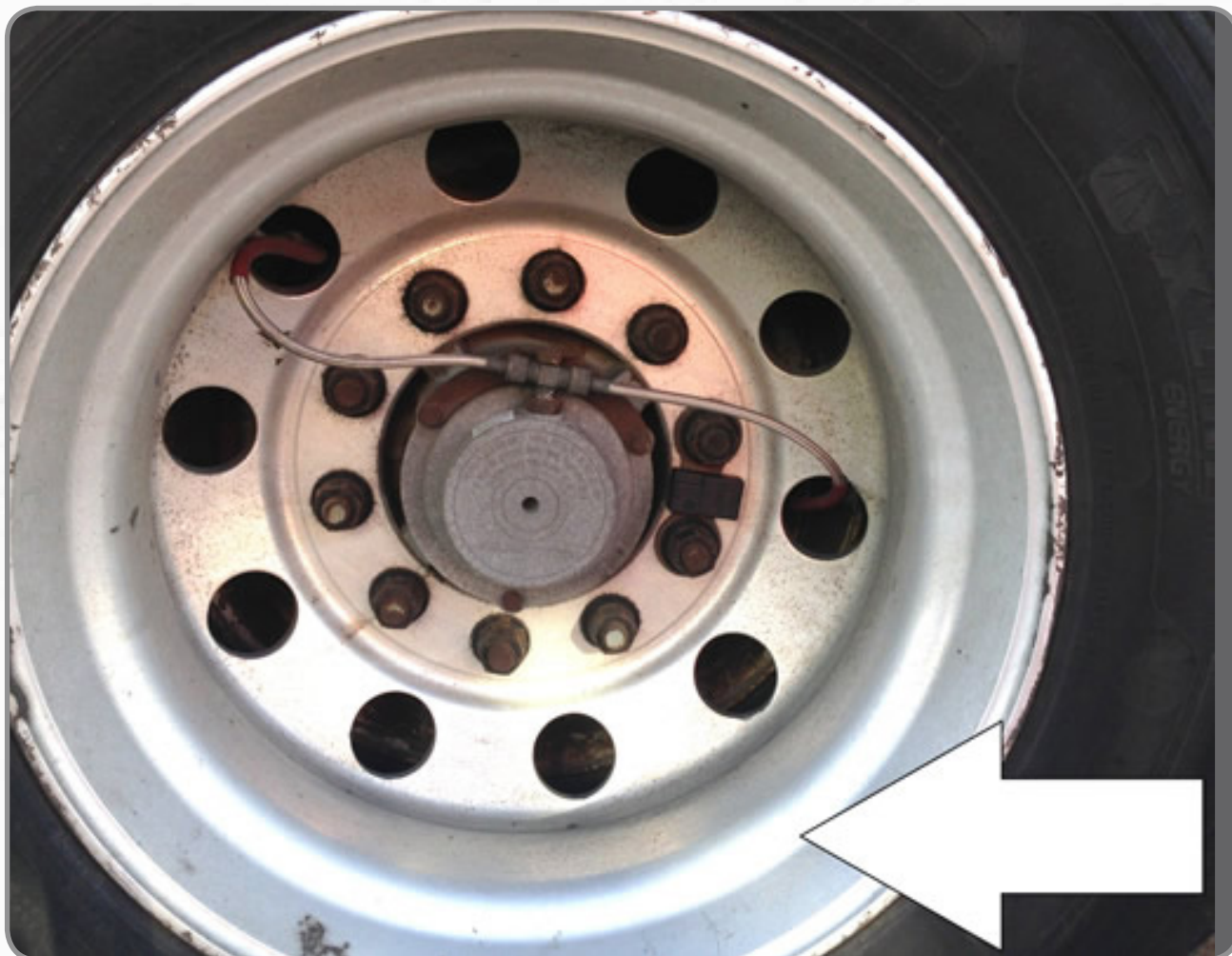
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Rim

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. No unauthorized welds.

DANIEL'S TIP: Fairly simple item. Be sure to mention that there cannot be any unauthorized welds.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Trailer Tire

No Abrasions, Bulges or Cuts to the tread or sidewalls. Tread depth is no less than 2/32 of an inch. Properly filled to manufacturer's specifications. Check it with an air gauge.

DANIEL'S TIP: Tires are a big deal! Be sure to look for Abrasions, Buldges or Cuts to the Tread and Sidewalls. Be sure to say it too. Trailer tires cannot be less than 2/32 of an inch depth. You must say "of an inch", simply saying "2/32" is not enough. Properly filled to manufacturers specifications and you absolutely must add that you check it with an air gauge! You don't have to physically check it with an air gauge on your exam, just mention that you would.





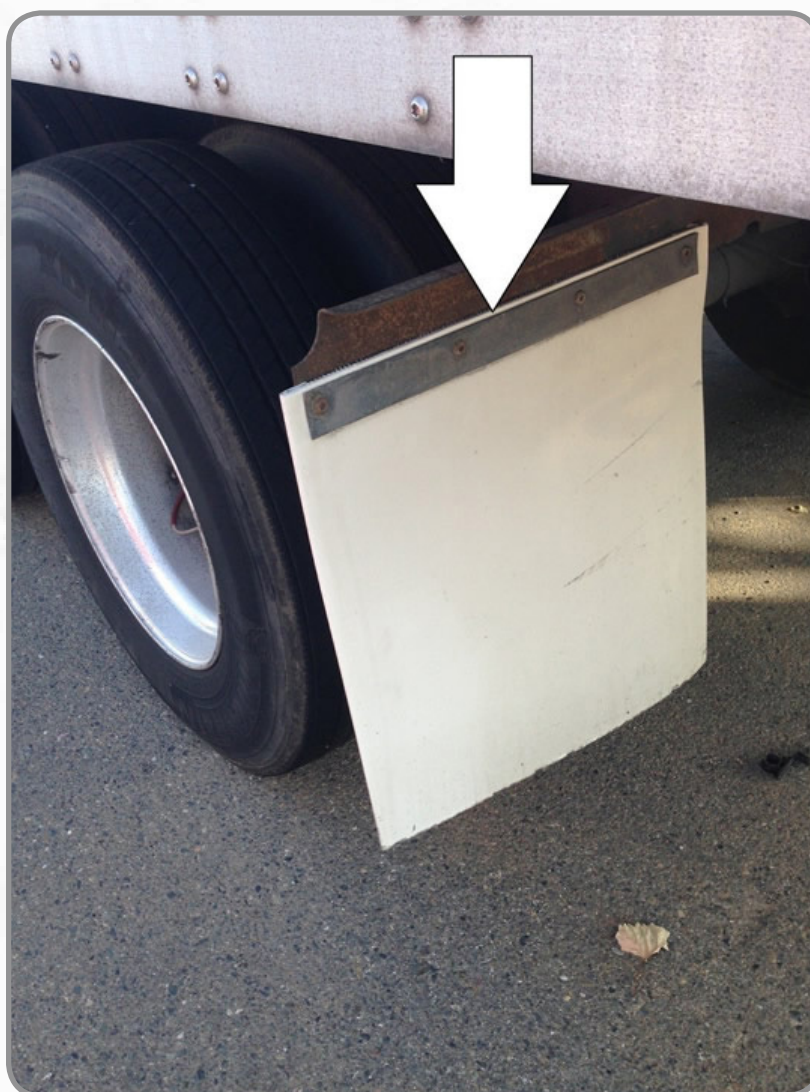
PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Mudflap

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken.

DANIEL'S TIP: Simple item. Just give it a PMS and a CBB.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Spacing

Only if your truck is equipped with duals! Check to see that there is proper space between the tires. There is nothing stuck between the tires.

DANIEL'S TIP: This only applies if you don't have Super Singles. Just let the examiner know you would check for proper space between the tires and making sure there's nothing stuck between them.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Trailer

Rear Door and Hinges

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not Cracked, Bent, or Broken. Opens and close and latches properly. Door seals are not worn, torn, or dry rotted.

DANIEL'S TIP: You don't need to open the trailer doors to demonstrate that they open and close and latch properly. So keep that in mind. Just be sure to point out the Hinges and the Door seals and say the above.





PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Light Check

Five locations that you must check your lights are:

1. Front of the truck
2. Both sides of the truck
3. Rear of the truck
4. Both sides of the trailer
5. Rear of the trailer

The Five Functions Are:

1. Left Turn Signal
2. Right Turn Signal
3. Four-Way Flashers
4. High Beams/Low Beams
5. Brake Lights



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Light Check

When you start your Light Check, you should tell the examiner that you will check all of your:

- Lights, Reflectors, Reflective Tape the same way.
- Properly Mounted and Secure
- Not Cracked, Bent, Broken
- Clean and illuminated
- The proper color of amber to the front and sides, and red to the rear.

Turn on your Marker Lights and Headlights.

Now walk around the entire truck and trailer and point out the lights. Give the function of the light and the location.

You should then ask your examiner to help you check your Five Functions.

While you're sitting in the drivers seat, the examiner will stand to the front of the truck, then behind the trailer. He will then check your Turn Signals, Four Way Flashers and Brake Lights.

You must do each function at every location.



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

In-Cab Inspection

Seat Belt:

Properly Mounted and Secure. Not ripped or frayed Adjusts and latches properly.

Emergency Equipment:

Fire Extinguisher- Properly Mounted and Secure. Fully charged

Three Red Reflective Triangles- My three red reflective triangles are GIVE LOCATION

Spare Electrical Fuses- My spare electrical fuses are GIVE LOCATION

Safe Start:

First make sure your transmission is in neutral Then fully depress the clutch.

Turn the key on.

Check the ABS Light, announce that it comes on and off

Now start the engine.

Voltmeter:

My alternator is charging between 13 and 14 volts.

Oil Pressure Gauge:

The Engine Oil Pressure is rising to normal operating range.

Water Temperature Gauge:

The water temperature is rising to normal operating range.

Air Pressure Gauges:

The air pressure should build to governor cut out.



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

In-Cab Inspection

City Horn and Air Horn:

Blow the City Horn by pushing on the center of the steering wheel. Blow the Air Horn by pulling on the cord.

Windshield and Mirrors:

The windshield and mirrors are clean No cracks or breaks, no obstructions And the mirrors are in proper adjustment.

Windshield Wipers and Washers:

Demonstrate that the washers work by spraying the windshield.

The Wipers are: Properly Mounted and Secure and operate smoothly. The blades aren't cracked or dry rotten.

Heater and Defroster:

Demonstrate that both the Heater and Defroster are working properly.

Lighting Indicators:

Left Turn, Right Turn, Four Way Flashers, and High Beams. As you are doing these, you should be pointing them out on the dashboard.

Parking Brake Check:

Trailer Parking Brakes- Set the Trailer Brake, release the tractor brake, and then tug lightly on the trailer.

Tractor Parking Brakes- Then set the Tractor Brake, release the trailer brake, and then tug lightly on the tractor.

Announce:

"My Tractor and Trailer Parking Brake Test was successful. I will now do my Service Brake Check"



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Air Brake Test

Service Brake Check:

Release both Tractor and Trailer Brakes. Now drive at idle speed. Apply the Service Brake to make sure you come to a complete stop, and that it doesn't pull to the left or right when applying the brakes.

Announce:

"My Service Brake Check Test was successful, the vehicle came to a safe stop and did not pull to the left or right."

There are three stages to an Air Brake Test

1. Applied Pressure Test
2. Warning Light and Buzzer
3. Tractor/Trailer Protection Valve Pop Out

Applied Pressure Test:

Build the air pressure to governor cut out. Put the truck in the lowest gear. Then turn off the engine. Immediately turn the engine back on. Push in both the tractor and trailer valves. (This will release the parking brakes.) Push and hold the Brake pedal fully. Allow the gauges to stabilize.

Announce the gauges have stabilized and the Primary and Secondary PSI. With the Brakes fully pressed, you should not lose more than 4 PSI in one minute. Announce that you are listening for air leaks during that minute.

Announce:

"This test was successful because I did not lose more than 4 PSI in this tractor trailer combination vehicle."



PRE-TRIP INSPECTION GUIDE

Air Brake Test

Warning Light and Buzzer Test

Pump down on the Brake pedal until the warning light and buzzer comes on, at or before 60 PSI.

Announce:

"This test was successful because my warning light and buzzer both came on at or before 60 PSI."

Tractor/Trailer Protection Valve Pop Out Test

Pump down on the brake pedal until both the tractor and trailer protection valves pop out. They should both pop out between 40 and 20 PSI.

Announce:

"This test was successful because my tractor and trailer valves popped out between 40 and 20 PSI."