Theory Curriculum Outline – CDL Class B to A Upgrade

1. Basic Operation
   a. Orientation – Chapter 1/Module 1
      i. Industry Regulation
      ii. Commercial Driver's License Procedure
      iii. Driver Qualifications
      iv. Alcohol & Drug Testing
      v. Commercial Motor Vehicles
   b. Control Systems/Dashboard - Chapter 2/Module 2
      i. Engine Controls
      ii. Primary Controls
      iii. Secondary Controls
      iv. Vehicle Instruments and Acceptable Ranges
      v. Warning Devices
   c. Pre- and Post-Trip Inspections- Chapter 3/Module 3
      i. Pre-trip Inspection
      ii. On-the-road Inspection
      iii. Post-trip Inspection
      iv. Driver Vehicle Inspection Report
   d. Basic Control- Chapter 4/Module 4
      i. Engine Start Up and Shut Down
      ii. Put Truck in Motion and Stop It
      iii. Turns, Curves, Roundabouts, Highway Enter/Exit
      iv. Straight Line Back
   e. Shifting/Operating Transmissions- Chapter 5/Module 5
      i. Controls and Tools for Shifting
      ii. Shift Patterns and Procedures
      iii. Benefits of Proper Shifting
      iv. Automatic Transmissions
   f. Backing and Docking- Chapter 6/Module 6
      i. Steering Principles
      ii. General Backing Guidelines
      iii. Situational Backing Maneuvers
      iv. Parking Lots and Loading Docks Backing Precautions
   g. Coupling and Uncoupling (CDL A only) - Chapter 7/Module 7
      i. Coupling Tractor Trailer
      ii. Uncoupling Tractor Trailer
      iii. Inspect and Test Components
      iv. Landing Gear, Pull Releases, and position converter Dollies
2. Safe Operating Procedures
   a. Visual Search - Chapter 8/Module 8
      i. Scanning Surroundings
      ii. Proper front, side, and behind visual scan
      iii. Potential hazards
      iv. Signs of distracted driver
      v. Mirror Types and uses
      vi. Mirror Adjustments
   b. Communication- Chapter 9/Module 9

        i. Intent Communication

        ii. Presence Communication

        iii. Eye Contact Techniques

  c. Distracted Driving- Chapter 10/Module 10

        i. Common Driving Distractions

        ii. Accident Prevention

  d. Speed Management- Chapter 11/Module 11

        i. Stopping Distance Factors

        ii. Curves and on grades

        iii. Road Conditions

        iv. Professional Driver Responsibility

  e. Space Management- Chapter 12/Module 12

        i. Importance of Space

        ii. Maintenance of Space

        iii. Safe Turns

        iv. Managing Distracted Drivers

  f. Night Operation- Chapter 13/Module 13

        i. Factors

        ii. Procedures

  g. Extreme Driving Conditions- Chapter 14/Module 14

        i. Prepare for Adverse Weather Conditions

        ii. Tire Chain Use and Procedure

        iii. Safe Vehicle Operation

        iv. Extreme Temperatures

        v. Challenges of steep grades and sharp curves

3. Advanced Operating Procedures

  a. Hazard Perception- Chapter 15/Module 15

        i. Hazardous Road Conditions

        ii. Avoid or Mitigate Hazards

        iii. Emergency Traffic Situations

  b. Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies- Chapter 16/Module 16

        i. Causes of Skids and jackknifing

        ii. Techniques to avoid skids and jackknifing

        iii. Maintaining directional control

        iv. CMV Emergency Responses

        v. Unsafe Acts

  c. Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings- Chapter 17/Module 17

        i. Regulations

        ii. Consequences for breaking regulations

        iii. Signs & Signals

        iv. Safety Tips

        v. Railroad Emergencies

4. Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions

  a. Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions- Chapter 18/Module 18

        i. Vehicle Systems functions

        ii. Check for Safe Operation

        iii. Diagnosing Malfunctions

  b. Roadside Inspections- Chapter 19/Module 19

        i. Preparation

        ii. Process

       iii. Results

   c. Maintenance- Chapter 20/Module 20

        i. Types of Maintenance

        ii. Responsibilities

       iii. Regulations

       iv. Costs of Poor Maintenance

5. Non-Driving Activities

   a. Hours of Service Requirements- Chapter 23/Module 23

        i. Regulations

        ii. Logs

       iii. Exceptions

       iv. Non-Compliance Consequences

   b. Fatigue and Wellness Awareness- Chapter 24/Module 24

        i. Diet and exercise

        ii. Stress Management

       iii. Driver Fatigue

       iv. Alcohol Use and Drug Abuse

        v. Safe Work Practices

       vi. Back Safety

      vii. Personal Security