

Theory Curriculum Outline – CDL Class A

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. Handling and Documenting Cargo- Chapter 21/Module 21
 - i. Securement Devices
 - ii. Even Distribution
 - iii. Loading and unloading safely
 - iv. Bill of lading
 - v. Pickup/delivery procedures
 - vi. Theft prevention
 - b. Environmental Compliance Issues- Chapter 22/Module 22
 - i. Identify Environmental Hazards
 - ii. Government Regulation
 - iii. Actions to Help
 - iv. Hazardous Material Incidents
 - c. Hours of Service Requirements- Chapter 23/Module 23
 - i. Regulations
 - ii. Logs
 - iii. Exceptions
 - iv. Non-Compliance Consequences
 - d. 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
 - e. Post-Crash Procedures- Chapter 25/Module 25
 - i. Secure the scene
 - ii. Post-accident drug and alcohol testing
 - iii. Fire procedures
 - f. External Communications- Chapter 26/Module 26
 - i. Roadside inspection process
 - ii. Regulation Violation impact
 - iii. Interpersonal Communication
 - g. Whistleblower/Coercion- Chapter 27/Module 27
 - i. Whistleblower Protections
 - ii. OSHA Complaint
 - iii. Coercion
 - iv. Coercion Complaint
 - h. Trip Planning- Chapter 28/Module 28
 - i. Required Paperwork

- ii. Route Selection
 - iii. Vehicle and cargo restrictions
 - iv. Estimating trip time
 - v. Fuel usage
- i. Drugs/Alcohol- Chapter 29/Module 29
 - i. CMV Operators alcohol and drug prohibitions
 - ii. Drug and alcohol testing types
 - iii. Drug and alcohol testing procedures
 - iv. Consequences of violations
 - v. Effects of Driving
- j. Medical Requirements- Chapter 30/Module 30
 - i. General and physical qualifications
 - ii. Medical examiner's certificate process
 - iii. Disqualification