

# 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 – 10
    - i. Vehicle Inspection Basics – Module 3
    - ii. Pre-trip Engine – Module 4
    - iii. Pre-trip In-Vehicle – Module 5
    - iv. Pre-Trip Walk-Around – Module 6
    - v. Pre-Trip Lights – Module 7
    - vi. Pre-Trip Brake Systems – Module 8
    - vii. On-the-road Inspection – Module 9
    - viii. Post-trip Inspection – Module 10
  - d. Basic Control- Chapter 4/Module 11
    - 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 12
    - 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 13
    - i. Steering Principles
    - ii. General Backing Guidelines
    - iii. Situational Backing Maneuvers
    - iv. Parking Lots and Loading Docks Backing Precautions
  - g. Coupling and Uncoupling - Chapter 7/Module 14-15
    - i. Coupling Trailer - Module 14
    - ii. Uncoupling Trailer – Module 15
2. Safe Operating Procedures
  - a. Visual Search - Chapter 8/Module 16
    - 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 17
    - i. Intent Communication
    - ii. Presence Communication
    - iii. Eye Contact Techniques
  - c. Distracted Driving- Chapter 10/Module 18
    - i. Common Driving Distractions
    - ii. Accident Prevention
  - d. Speed Management- Chapter 11/Module 19
    - i. Stopping Distance Factors
    - ii. Curves and on grades
    - iii. Road Conditions
    - iv. Professional Driver Responsibility
  - e. Space Management- Chapter 12/Module 20
    - i. Importance of Space
    - ii. Maintenance of Space
    - iii. Safe Turns
    - iv. Managing Distracted Drivers
  - f. Night Operation- Chapter 13/Module 21
    - i. Factors
    - ii. Procedures
  - g. Extreme Driving Conditions- Chapter 14/Module 22-24
    - i. Preparing for Extreme Driving Conditions – Module 22
    - ii. Extreme Driving Conditions – Module 23
    - iii. Mountain Driving – Module 24
- 3. Advanced Operating Procedures
  - a. Hazard Perception- Chapter 15/Module 25
    - i. Hazardous Road Conditions
    - ii. Avoid or Mitigate Hazards
    - iii. Emergency Traffic Situations
  - b. Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies- Chapter 16/Module 26 -27
    - i. Skid Control and Prevention – Module 26
    - ii. Driving Emergencies – Module 27
  - c. Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings- Chapter 17/Module 28
    - 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 29-34
    - i. Identifying Engine Compartment Defects – Module 29
    - ii. Identifying Frame, Axle, & Suspension Defects – Module 30
    - iii. Identifying Wheel and Tire Defects – Module 31
    - iv. Identifying Brake Defects – Module 32
    - v. Identifying Steering and Coupling Defects – Module 33
    - vi. Identifying Drive Train Defects – Module 34
  - b. Roadside Inspections- Chapter 19/Module 35

- i. Preparation
    - ii. Process
    - iii. Results
  - c. Maintenance- Chapter 20/Module 36
    - 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 37
    - 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 38
    - i. Identify Environmental Hazards
    - ii. Government Regulation
    - iii. Actions to Help
    - iv. Hazardous Material Incidents
  - c. Hours of Service Requirements- Chapter 23/Module 39 - 41
    - i. Working Time – Module 39
    - ii. Short-Haul Rules – Module 40
    - iii. Record of Duty Status – Module 41
  - d. Fatigue and Wellness Awareness- Chapter 24/Module 42
    - 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 43
    - i. Secure the scene
    - ii. Post-accident drug and alcohol testing
    - iii. Fire procedures
  - f. External Communications- Chapter 26/Module 44
    - i. Roadside inspection process
    - ii. Regulation Violation impact
    - iii. Interpersonal Communication
  - g. Whistleblower/Coercion- Chapter 27/Module 45
    - i. Whistleblower Protections
    - ii. OSHA Complaint
    - iii. Coercion
    - iv. Coercion Complaint
  - h. Trip Planning- Chapter 28/Module 46
    - i. Required Paperwork
    - ii. Route Selection

- iii. Vehicle and cargo restrictions
- iv. Estimating trip time
- v. Fuel usage
- i. Drugs/Alcohol- Chapter 29/Module 47
  - 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 48
  - i. General and physical qualifications
  - ii. Medical examiner's certificate process
  - iii. Disqualification