

# Reclamation Safety and Health Standards—2024 Edition

## Chapter 4: Task-Based | Appendix 4.13-B Operator's Towing Pre-Trip Safety Inspection Checklist

Applicability: Reclamation Employees, Facilities, Operations, and Contractors

### Appendix 4.13-B      Operator's Towing Pre-Trip Safety Inspection Checklist

Date

Operator

Until Serial/License Number

Review the following checklist and indicate whether each item is satisfactory (SAT) or unsatisfactory (UNSAT) while including applicable notes. All unsatisfactory issues must be properly addressed before the trailer can be towed.

#### 1. Tow Vehicle

| Item  | SAT. | UNSAT. | Notes |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| The tow vehicle has enough power to safely tow the trailer load.  |      |        |       |
| The tow vehicle has received regular preventative maintenance work.   |      |        |       |
| The tow vehicle has adequate fuel, battery power, oil, and engine coolant   |      |        |       |
| The tow vehicle tires are properly inflated and balanced and do not show excessive wear or damage.  |      |        |       |
| The wheel fasteners (lug nuts) are present, tight, and rust-free.   |      |        |       |
| Wheel rims are free from damage.  |      |        |       |
| Tow vehicle is level when attached to the loaded trailer.   |      |        |       |
| All lights (dash lights, headlights, taillights, clearance lights, brake lights, directional signals, hazard lights, high beams, reflectors) are in proper working order. |      |        |       |
| All brakes are in proper working order.   |      |        |       |
| Side view mirrors provide an unobstructed rear view on both sides of vehicle.   |      |        |       |

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### 2. Hitching Apparatus

| Item   | SAT. | UNSAT. | Notes |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| The receiver is properly mounted at the tow vehicle.   |      |        |       |
| The receiver, drawbar, hitch ball, coupler, sway control device, spring bars, safety chains, and power connection wiring are all functional and compatible with the tow vehicle and trailer.   |      |        |       |
| The power and brake control connections between the trailer and tow vehicle are compatible, provide enough slack for turning, and are in good working order.   |      |        |       |
| The landing gear (trailer jack) is functional.   |      |        |       |
| The hitch ball and coupler are the same size. When attached, the ball is firmly seated in the coupler, and the latching mechanism is locked. Ensure the shank of the ball is compatible with the hitch and rated for the weight of the trailer you will be towing. |      |        |       |
| The safety chains are securely attached to both the tow vehicle and trailer, crossing under the trailer tongue in an "x" pattern.  |      |        |       |
| The safety chains connect the trailer and tow vehicle while providing enough slack for turning.  |      |        |       |
| The eyelets holding the safety chains all have their open-ended hooks facing the outside of the hitch connection.  |      |        |       |
| If using a fifth-wheel trailer hitch, the following equipment is in good working order: fifth-wheel plate, plate jaw and handle, hitch plate, pin and pin box, and side rails.   |      |        |       |

### 3. Trailer

| Item  | SAT. | UNSAT. | Notes |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| The trailer frame is free of cracks, fractures, bends, and other signs of weakness. |      |        |       |

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|  | SAT. | UNSAT. | Notes |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| All lights (taillights, clearance lights, brake lights, directional signals, hazard lights, reflectors) are in proper working order. |      |        |       |
| The trailer tires are properly inflated and balanced and do not show excessive wear or damage.                                       |      |        |       |
| The trailer wheel fasteners (lug nuts) are present, tight, and rust-free.  |      |        |       |
| Trailer wheel rims are free from damage.   |      |        |       |
| Loaded trailer is level when attached to the tow vehicle.  |      |        |       |
| Running boards (if present) are in good condition.   |      |        |       |
| Winch (if present) is in working order.  |      |        |       |

### 4. Load Distribution

| Item   | SAT. | UNSAT. | Notes |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| The trailer load has a center of gravity that is as low as possible, and there is no risk of loose items falling off the trailer.  |      |        |       |
| Taken separately, the towing vehicle and trailer have even weight distributions (front to rear, left to right). This has been verified by visual inspection and/or scale measurements. |      |        |       |
| The trailer weight and its distribution are compatible with the tow vehicle and hitching system, as verified by conducting a vehicle-trailer compatibility check.                      |      |        |       |

### 5. Inspection Notes/Issues Found/Remedial Action Taken