TRADUS used transport vehicle inspection checklist

Use this checklist to perform your used transport vehicle inspection. For more info read the full article on how to perform a used vehicle inspection **here**.

Your wants and needs

List your wants and needs below to check during the inspection if the vehicle matches them.

Needs (required features)	**Wants** (ideally fitted features)

Other checks before the search

- Is there a shop for parts, repairs, and maintenance?
- Is the vehicle within your budget (including any immediate repairs you know of)?
- Are the maintenance, running, and ownership costs within your monthly budget?
- Have you arranged financing (if applicable) and insurance?
- What are the local regulations/restrictions, e.g. emission levels, length/width, etc?
- Read up on the bord computer details of this particular model, how to read it: e.g. working hours, coupling condition, breakage?

To bring along on your inspection

- ☐ A specialist
- ☐ A flashlight
- ☐ A measuring tape
- ☐ This checklist

1. Background check

Check the following documents:

Document	Available?	Remarks
Ownership documents	Yes / No	
Service and oil change history	Yes / No	
Accident history	Yes / No	
VOC document	Yes / No	
Key code card	Yes / No	
Radio code card	Yes / No	

Ask the following questions:

- Has it ever been in any type of accident?
- Is everything in good working order?
- Is there anything I should be aware of – e.g. Disruptions / deviations
- Does the purchase come with any warranty?
- Are there any parts that need replacing now or in the near future?
- Are many spare keys are available?
- Does it have a valid Inspection license, e.g. TÜV, APK
- Can the bord computer be changed into your local language?

Any specific questions you might have yourself:

2. Exterior

Bodywork

Check	Remarks
Remarkable traces of repaired damages	
Others	

Glass surfaces

Check	Remarks
No cracks other than acceptable	
No chips other than permitted (right in front of truck driver)	
Others	

Suspension

Check	Remarks
Vehicle is standing level	
Air suspension functions well (can you lift the rear or front side of trunk)	
No broken air drums, spring leaves and no leaking air valves	
Others	

Lights, lenses, and other electrical parts

Check	Remarks
All lights work in all settings	
No foggy, damaged, or missing glass surfaces and/or reflectors	
If applicable: control consoles work properly	
Others	

Tires

Check	Remarks
Tires per axle are of same brand and profile	
Front axle tires are not retreated or regrooved	
Side walls are not damaged on inside of tires – and between double mounted tires	
Tread depth is within legal limit	
Condition matches mileage	
Spare tire and tire replacement kit are present	
Tractor unit: Plastic wheel covers are present	
Chassis / Cab only: Plastic covers are mounted over the (tractioned) rear axle	
Others	

Underneath

Check	Remarks
No leaking liquids under the vehicle beyond “normal sweating”	
Others	

Remarks:

3. Engine bay

Check	Remarks
No leaking or dripping water under the engine	
Validate engine details with the bord computer	
Coolant is in good condition (not dirty or brown)	
Others	

Remarks:

4. Interior

Check	Remarks
Good personal impression	
Seatbelts and systems are functioning properly	
Cabin heater (auxiliary) is functioning well	
Night A/C is functioning well	
If applicable, refrigerator is functioning well	
Mileage on odometer is the same as indicated on tachograph (m vs km)	
If applicable, sliding roof is functioning well	
Electrical or pneumatic seat operation is functioning well	
Fuse Box is still in original condition (no green/yellow/blue cables coming out)	
Folding bed is ok	
All electrical parts are in proper working condition	
Air conditioner works properly	
Interior state matches mileage	
Warning light/triangle and reflecting jackets are available	
Others	

Remarks:

5. Test drive

Cold start and idling

Important: do the following before driving off. Perform a cold start and let the engine idle.

Check	Remarks
Cold start (engine bay open): no problems	
No unusual movement from the temperature gauge	
No unwanted exhaust fumes	
No excessive exhaust noise	
No excessive rattling, squealing, or knocking sounds from the engine	
No fumes from under the oil filler cap (remove the filler cap)	

Ask for a test drive, if some of the above points are particularly suspicious to you:

Check	Remarks
START & ACCELERATE	
Warm start: immediate and without any problems	
No slipping when accelerating uphill in a higher gear	
No excessive smoke from the exhaust when accelerating (uphill)	
Engine performs smoothly and according to specifications	
Others	
STEERING	
Steering wheel doesn't feel too heavy	
No more than 5 cm play in the steering wheel	
No pulling to one side (loosen grip on steering wheel)	
Others	

BRAKES	
Brake test at low speed: no vibration, strange noises, squeaking sounds, and / or pulsating grip, vehicle stops in a straight line	
Hard stop at higher speed: in a straight line, no noises or unwanted body responses	
Handbrake works properly	
Engine break is functioning well	
If applicable, if retarder/ intarder/ pretarder is functioning well	
Others	
GEARBOX & CLUTCH	
Clutch: easily identifiable gripping point, no long travel up to gripping point	
Smooth, noise-free gear changes, gear stick self-centers in neutral	
Automatic gearbox: gears change smoothly and according to circumstances (speed, engine load, etc.)	
Others	
SYSTEMS	
No warning lights or unusual read from the temperature gauge	
No body noises (especially when going over bumps) or unwanted body movement	
Airbreak system is fine – e.g. no leaking cylinders	
No rattling of air compressor	
No leaking of air lines	
Others	

Remarks:

Summary

Overall impression of the vehicle:

Immediate repairs:

Repair need	Cost

Total cost of immediate repairs: €

Vehicle price: €

Total price: €