# Tractor-Trailer Coupling Safety Checklist

For trained operators using conventional fifth wheels. Follow the manufacturer’s sequence; this sheet verifies critical checks and does not replace equipment-specific training.

## Equipment and review

**Driver / date / tractor / trailer**

**Trainer or reviewer / location**

## Prepare safely

- ☐ Use stable, level ground and secure the trailer against movement with the appropriate brakes and chocks. Keep people clear.
- ☐ Inspect the fifth wheel, kingpin, mounting, locking mechanism, air/electrical lines, and landing gear. Stop for damage or uncertainty.
- ☐ Confirm trailer height and alignment using the equipment procedure. Never put yourself between moving vehicles or under an unsupported trailer.

## Verify the connection before departure

- ☐ Follow the manufacturer’s coupling sequence and perform its specified pull/tug test with the trailer secured.
- ☐ With the vehicle secured, visually verify correct kingpin engagement, closed locking jaws, proper release-handle/lock position, and no improper gap at the fifth wheel.
- ☐ Check air and electrical connections, line routing and clearance, brake operation, lights, and required air-system checks.
- ☐ Raise and secure the landing gear and handle as specified. Complete the walk-around and remove chocks only when safe and appropriate.

## Uncouple under control

- ☐ Select ground that will support the trailer and load. Follow the procedure for brakes, chocks, landing gear, connections, and lock release.
- ☐ Pull clear in controlled stages and confirm the trailer is supported. Stay out of crush zones and never try to catch a falling trailer.

## Defect / action / person notified

## Review outcome

**Ready / hold / reviewer / date**

OSHA: Safety at the destination  49 CFR 392.7  Freightliner: Coupling checks