

運輸署

Transport Department

DRIVING SERVICES SECTION

Guide to Articulated Vehicle Driving Test

FOR CANDIDATES' ATTENTION:

1. The content of this guide will be updated on a timely basis. For the latest version, please visit the website of the Transport Department: www.td.gov.hk (Publications and Press Releases > Publications > Free Publications). If there is any discrepancy between any hardcopy and the online version, the online version shall always prevail.
2. This guide is designed for reference only, and has no legal bindings on driving test.

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INTRODUCTION

The articulated vehicle driving tests aim at assessing candidates' driving ability, and help the candidates acquire good traffic knowledge, establish a safe driving attitude and give due consideration to other road users in future.

The Driving Examiner will carry out the driving test in accordance with the contents of this Guide and will handle situations that are not described here by applying his profound experience and sound judgment in driving.

PART I TEST VEHICLE AND PARKING MANOEUVRING AREA REQUIREMENTS

Specific Requirements

Vehicles that do not meet the following specific requirements will NOT be accepted for the purpose of driving test: –

Tractive unit: a specially designed medium goods vehicle, the seating capacity should be not less than 2-seater (excluding driver).

Length and Width of Trailer:

Length – from 6.00 metres to 12.10 metres
Width – not less than 2.40 metres

Trailers equipped with other special accessories may also be regarded as conforming to the required standard. However, candidates should seek prior approval from the Driving Services Section of the Transport Department according to individual situation as soon as possible. If the subject trailer could meet the above requirement, it will be issued with a written approval by the Driving Services Section.

General Requirements

Vehicles also have to meet the following general requirements, otherwise, it will NOT be accepted for the purpose of driving test: –

- (A) The test vehicle must be in good mechanical order with a braking system readily accessible to the Driving Examiner.
- (B) The test vehicle must be insured to cover third party risks (including driving test purpose).
- (C) The test vehicle must have a valid vehicle licence that must be displayed on the left of the windscreen of the vehicle and on the trailer as well.
- (D) The test vehicle must be equipped with both the nearside and offside mirrors.
- (E) The test vehicle must be equipped with a gearbox capable of performing at least five forward and one reversing speeds.
- (F) The test vehicle must be fitted with air braking system.

Parking Manoeuvring Area and Layout

The Driving Examiner would set up the layout as shown in the Supplementary Sketch and make use of it to brief the candidates about various requirements of the test.

Others

- (A) Candidates can use vehicles fitted with automatic transmission (including automatic clutch and pre-selected gearbox types) for the driving test. However, candidates who have passed their driving tests with automatic transmission vehicles will be given, upon application, restricted driving licences allowing them to drive automatic transmission vehicles of the same class as the test vehicles used by them.
- (B) Handicapped candidates, including those with impaired hearing, missing or defective limbs, or with walking difficulties, have to be referred by medical officers and have to successfully pass a physical test conducted by the Transport Department, before they are allowed to apply for a driving test. For enquiries, please contact the Driving Services Section at **2713 7262**.

Part II TESTING PROCEDURES & INFORMATION TO NOTE

Basic Requirements of the Test

(I) Candidates applying for an articulated vehicle driving test must be either a holder of a valid full driving licence for medium goods vehicle (code 18) or heavy goods vehicle (code 19). In addition, candidates must not be convicted of an offence under Section 36 (Causing death by dangerous driving), Section 36A (Causing grievous bodily harm by dangerous driving), Section 39 (Driving a motor vehicle under the influence of drink), Section 39A (Driving, attempting to drive or being in charge of a motor vehicle with alcohol concentration above prescribed limit), Section 39B (Screening breath tests), Section 39C (Provision of specimens for alcohol analysis), Section 39J (Driving motor vehicle without proper control under influence of specified illicit drug), Section 39K (Driving motor vehicle with any concentration of specified illicit drug), Section 39L (Driving motor vehicle without proper control under influence of drug other than specified illicit drug), Section 39O(1) (Failure to undergo preliminary drug test) or Section 39S (Failure to provide specimen of blood or urine) of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) during the 5 years immediately preceding their applications.

Candidates having passed the articulated vehicle driving tests are eligible for endorsing both the full driving licences for articulated vehicle (code 20) and heavy goods vehicle (code 19) if they are holding a medium goods vehicle (code 18) driving licence only. According to Regulations 11 and 15 of the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations (Cap.374B), an applicant for a full driving licence with commercial vehicle classes must be the holder of a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card; or the holder of a Hong Kong Identity Card (other than a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card) and is not subject to any condition of stay other than a limit of stay as defined in section 2(1) of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap.115). For persons who are not of the above residence status, but are required to perform cross border driving duties, please contact the Transport Department's Cross Boundary Unit or Licensing Offices for details.

(II) Candidates applying for the above test must reach the stipulated standards required by the Transport Department including: –

- (A) Candidates must be fully conversant with the “Road Users’ Code”;
- (B) Candidates should be familiar with the functions and safe manoeuvring of the control of the vehicle;
- (C) Candidates should be able to master the following manoeuvres: –
 - (i) The proper use of gears and accelerator to meet various traffic conditions;
 - (ii) The proper judgment of timing, speed and car distance to meet various traffic conditions.
- (D) Candidates should be able to master the following specified manoeuvres: –
 - (i) Starting the engine of the vehicle;
 - (ii) Moving off straight ahead or at an angle;
 - (iii) Keeping an appropriate distance from the vehicle ahead;
 - (iv) Overtaking vehicles and selecting the appropriate traffic lane to meet the traffic conditions;
 - (v) Turning left and right;
 - (vi) Reversing and parking;
 - (vii) Stopping and starting on a slope;
 - (viii) Giving correct signals under appropriate conditions;
 - (ix) Responding promptly and correctly to people controlling traffic, other road users, traffic signs and traffic lights;
 - (x) De-coupling and Re-coupling procedures.

Documents and Papers Presented for the Test

Candidates should present the following documents and papers for inspection by Driving Test Centre Officer and Driving Examiner when attending a test: –

- (a) test appointment letter;
- (b) Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card / Hong Kong Identity Card / an alternative identity document previously registered in the Transport Department;
- (c) learner's driving licence and valid full driving licence (if applicable)^;
- (d) letter of approval for disabled persons (if applicable);
- (e) a printed copy of valid Third Party Risks Insurance Certificate in respect of the test vehicle (electronic versions are not accepted) (should also cover driving test purpose); and
- (f) a printed copy of Vehicle Licensing Notice with the latest validity period of the vehicle licence of the test vehicle (electronic versions are not accepted) *.

^ If candidate is a holder of valid temporary driving licence, they must bring it along for the test.

* Only applicable to those vehicle licences registered or renewed on or after 30 December 2024. If the validity date of the Vehicle Licensing Notice has not yet come into effect on the day of the driving test, the old vehicle licence with expiry date of the test vehicle must be presented so as to ensure that the vehicle licence is still valid on the day of the driving test.

Candidates should remind the driving instructor who accompanies them to attend driving test (if any) to provide the Driving Examiner conducting the test with his / her private driving instructor's licence (only applicable to candidates receiving driving training from private driving instructors).

Vision Test

Candidates must read at a distance of 23 metres in good daylight (with the aid of spectacles or other corrective lenses, if worn) a motor vehicle registration mark. If a candidate needs to wear spectacles or other corrective lenses to read the vehicle registration number at a distance of 23 metres, he / she must wear the spectacles or other corrective lenses throughout the entire driving test. If a candidate fails the vision test or refuses to wear the spectacles or other corrective lenses after the vision test, he / she will not be allowed to participate in the driving test, and his / her driving test form will become invalid. If he / she intends to take the driving test again, he / she must purchase a new driving test form.

PART III POINTS TO NOTE ON DRIVING FOR CANDIDATES

Preparation before Moving Off

Before boarding the test vehicle, candidates should walk around it to check that the trailer legs / wheels are wound up and the handle stowed, the air ducts and the electrical connector are properly connected. Before starting the engine, make sure that the handbrake is on and the gear is in neutral or parking position. Adjust the driving mirrors and seat if necessary and put on the seat belt (only applicable to tractive units manufactured after 1.1.1989 and registered on or after 1.1.1990). Before moving off, candidates should check against the readings on the panel, check that there is sufficient air pressure in the storage tanks (only applicable to vehicles fitted with air-brake system). Candidates should also check against the surrounding traffic conditions, give appropriate signal and move off under safe conditions.

Driving Manoeuvres and Control of Speed

Candidates should be fully conversant with the use of various controls of the vehicle in order to handle various road conditions, such as going up and down slopes, approaching road junctions and roundabouts. Maintain proper coordination of steering wheel, clutch, accelerator and footbrake so as to avoid rolling forwards or backwards during moving off and stopping.

Care should be taken in the control of the speed of the vehicle with the use of proper gear so as to suit the ever-changing traffic conditions. Do not drive too fast when approaching junctions, zebra crossings, pedestrians and objects or when cornering. Under normal traffic conditions, candidates should not frequently use low gears (first or second gear) or drive only at low speed during the test; otherwise, Driving Examiners will regard these as serious mistakes which may eventually lead to a failure. If the road conditions ahead are clear and safe, candidates should make use of the proper gear to accelerate to a reasonable speed as soon as possible, but not exceeding the speed limit. However, if the road conditions do not permit so doing, candidates should adopt low gear instead and reduce speed for the sake of safety.

Candidates must bear in mind that a fully loaded articulated vehicle if not properly driven would lose control and lead to fatal consequences, particularly when cornering, emergency braking or running downslope.

Judging Car Distance

Candidates should always keep a safe distance from the car ahead, and bear in mind the 2-second rule during driving. Avoid driving in parallel with other motorists in dual or multiple lanes, and try to keep a safe distance from other vehicles or objects when overtaking or stopping.

Overtaking

Candidates should observe the traffic situation as early as possible to prepare for the overtaking. If the traffic situation is safe, avoid stopping behind any stationary vehicle or obstacle prior to overtaking. Make full use of mirrors before overtaking, observe the rear following vehicles, and / or those vehicles from opposite directions, and signal properly. Make use of the mirrors to check around especially before moving out. During the overtaking process, care should be taken to keep a safe distance from objects ahead and control the speed of the vehicle properly, and should also make use of the mirrors to check around for any rear following vehicle. After overtaking, make full use of mirrors before moving in. Candidates should return to the original lane if situation permits and make use of the mirrors for observing their traffic. Care should be taken not to cut in sharply in front of other vehicles. The above steps in overtaking should also apply when candidates adjust the position of their vehicles in a driving lane that is larger than standard lane in width.

Hazard Recognition

Candidates should constantly observe the road conditions, so as to respond appropriately to road signs, vehicles parked at roadside, pedestrians, junctions, change of road conditions and emergencies.

Roundabouts and Junctions

Before entering or leaving roundabouts or junctions, candidates should signal properly, adopt the appropriate speed and correct traffic lane. Observe the “Give Way” and “Stop” signs and yield right to vehicles having the right of way.

Candidates, before reaching the junctions, should control the vehicle properly and pay attention to warning, regulatory and informatory traffic signs and act accordingly. Select the appropriate lane beforehand, signal properly and make use of the mirrors. Before driving into the junction, candidates may stop at an appropriate position to check traffic conditions from the right, then left and then right again. After ensuring traffic conditions are safe, candidates should drive into the junction as early as possible, and should avoid hesitation as otherwise they will miss the chance. Constant observation of traffic conditions from both sides is necessary when passing the road junction and to remain in the right course. Maintain reasonable speed and avoid driving too slow which may cause traffic congestion or reducing traffic flow. Care should be taken to keep the vehicle inside the proper track when cornering, i.e. should not be far away from the kerb or pavement, should avoid occupying another driving lane. The vehicle must not be allowed to touch the kerb and drive on the pavement. In addition, the vehicle should be kept at a proper speed when driving around corners. Premature / late steering or returning the steering wheel would lead to right corner cut or deviating from the proper track which may result in the vehicle occupying another driving lane.

Traffic Signs / Traffic Lights / Directions of Authorized Traffic Controllers

Candidates should be familiar with and obey the traffic signs, and follow the directions of traffic controllers (including policemen, traffic wardens and members of school traffic safety team). Candidates should also observe the change of traffic lights. When the green light is on and is not changing to amber, candidates should not accelerate and should keep on driving with average speed to drive through the junction carefully. They should not deliberately slow down the vehicle if there is sufficient time to cross the junction before the green light changes to amber. If the traffic lights change from green to amber and that the vehicle has passed the stop line, candidates may continue to move on. However, if it has already changed to amber and that the vehicle has not yet reached the stop line, candidates should stop the vehicle. If bringing the vehicle to a sudden standstill would lead to a traffic accident, candidates should carefully continue with their way.

Traffic Lanes

Candidates should always keep in left lane. Before reaching a road junction, they should select the appropriate lane for left turning, right turning or going straight ahead. Make full use of the mirrors to check traffic conditions and to signal properly in good time before changing lanes. When the traffic situation is safe, you should not stop on the lane before changing lanes. Mirrors checking must be performed prior to steering in order to ensure safety. Candidates should also check the mirror for safety when changing their driving position. When driving on a wide road without a line dividing traffic lanes, candidates should also make full use of the mirrors to check traffic conditions before and during a change of driving position before steering.

The Stopping Rule

Before stopping, candidates should make use of the mirrors to check traffic conditions, signal properly and then pull up near the left side kerb / any appropriate location. After stopping, the handbrake should be secured; the gearshift should be moved to neutral position. Before leaving the vehicle, make sure to switch off the engine and engage proper gear as appropriate.

Road Courtesy

Candidates should comply with the Road Users' Code and be courteous to other road users. When driving a gigantic vehicle, try to avoid using the outer lane; candidates should not make use of the huge size of the test vehicles to force other road users to give way, to brake or to swerve their vehicles in order to dodge them. They should also make constant checks on the mirrors and to keep safety distance with others.

Reversing and Parking Manoeuvres

These manoeuvres are to test the ability of candidates in reversing and parking. The Driving Examiner would set up the field layout as sketched in the Appendix according to the size of the test vehicle, and to place the cones in the correct positions. Candidates have to reverse their vehicles precisely into the designated parking space, which is equal to one and half of the width of the test vehicle, as directed. In the test, candidates should demonstrate their adequate observations, while any wheel or any part of the vehicle must not touch any cone or kerb, and the trailer must not overhang the area of the parking compound; after parking, the entire extreme rear of the trailer must be parked within the 1-metre yellow stopping area; any part of the vehicle must not overhang any boundary lines or kerb and the wheels must not touch any boundary lines or kerbs. If the parking space is comparatively shorter than the test vehicle, the front part of it is allowed to overhang the front white line. Candidates should take note that repeated steering at rest will not be accepted during the reversing and parking. Driving Examiners will regard this as a serious mistake which may eventually lead to a failure.

De-coupling and Re-coupling Procedures

Candidates should adopt the following procedures in sequence: –

De-coupling

- (1) Secure the trailer brake;
- (2) Lower the trailer legs / wheels and stow the handle;
- (3) Disconnect the electrical connector and the air ducts (close the valve first if any);
- (4) Pull the locking bar to unlock the king pin in order to disconnect the trailer from the tractor unit;
- (5) Drive the tractive unit away slowly and smoothly.

Re-coupling

- (1) Check that the height of the upper fifth wheel plate underneath the semi-trailer is matched with that of the fifth wheel table plate on the tractor unit;
- (2) Reverse the tractive unit slowly and smoothly in the re-coupling position until the unit is secured to the trailer;
- (3) Make sure that the trailer is properly secured by driving forward the unit a bit;
- (4) Connect the electrical connector and the air ducts (open the valve if any);
- (5) Wind up the trailer legs / wheels and stow the handle;
- (6) Release the trailer brake.

Oral Test Relating to Safe Driving

Candidates will be required to answer questions on relevant commercial vehicles type relating to safe driving and to demonstrate the operation of relevant equipment to the Driving Examiner when requested. For the scope of questions of safe driving, please refer to the Appendix to this Guide.

Gear Changing Exercise

Under the instruction of the Driving Examiner and within a designated distance, candidates have to demonstrate the skill of gear changing from the lowest gear to high gears (normally from 1st to 5th gear). Then they have to change down one by one in turn until the lowest gear is reached. In the process, the speed driven must cope with the gear used, footbrake may be applied slightly if necessary in order to retard. At the completion of the test, candidates should adopt the normal gears in driving.

Use of Mirrors

Before any manoeuvring and signalling, candidates should check against the side mirrors first, for example: –

- (1) Moving off and pulling up;
- (2) Changing directions;
- (3) Overtaking;
- (4) Changing lanes;
- (5) Passing stationary or moving objects;
- (6) Before acceleration / retardation;
- (7) Where situation warrants.

PART IV OTHERS

Test Routes

Under normal conditions, Driving Examiners would conduct the test according to the standard test routes designed by the Driving Services Section of the Transport Department. However, in case of road repairs, traffic jam or emergency, test routes may be deviated to meet the traffic conditions.

Dangerous Driving / Inadequate Control

Should a candidate perform any dangerous act which may endanger other road users during the course of the test, or prove himself / herself to be in a state of inadequate control over the vehicle, the test may be terminated by the Driving Examiner.

In case of an emergency which may endanger other road users or lead to traffic accidents, the Driving Examiner may exercise his discretion to stop the test vehicle.

Methods of Recording Driving Errors

The mistakes committed by candidates will be divided into minor and serious ones and recorded on the electronic test form by shaded box against the appropriate item: –

Minor Mistakes

Minor mistakes refer to those driving faults committed by candidates that would not endanger other road users or even cause inconvenience to them. Such driving faults would not lead to a failure in the test.

Serious Mistakes

Serious mistakes are those which would cause imminent or direct danger, as well as a candidate's driving technique or basic control not being up to the stipulated standard of the Transport Department. The driving test system being strict and fair, if a candidate commits one or more serious mistakes in a driving test, he / she will be considered to have failed in the test.

If a candidate commits minor mistakes against a certain item for **three** times or more, these mistakes will accumulate to form a ***serious mistake*** and he / she will be considered to have failed in the test.

Test Form and Record of Result

After the test, the duty Driving Test Centre Officer will give the candidate the Driving Test Form (TD 553), on which all the mistakes committed by the candidate during the test as well as the test result are recorded.

The result of the candidate will become final only after it has been verified by the Transport Department. However, if the candidate undertook the test during the period his / her licence was suspended by the Court, the "Pass" result obtained will be rescinded and the fees paid will not be refunded.

Application for Driving Licence by Successful Candidates and Application for a Second Test by Unsuccessful Candidates

1. Successful Candidates

According to Regulations 11 and 15 of the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations (Cap. 374B), an applicant for a full driving licence with commercial vehicle classes must be the holder of a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card; or the holder of a Hong Kong Identity Card (other than a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card) and is not subject to any condition of stay other than a limit of stay as defined in section 2(1) of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115). For persons who are not of the above residence status, but are required to perform cross border driving duties, please contact the Transport Department's Cross Boundary Unit or Licensing Offices for details.

Successful candidates are required to apply to the Transport Department for the issue of driving licence, or for addition of the relevant driving entitlement(s) as the case may be, after 4 working days (but not exceeding 3 years) from the date of passing the driving test. For application over the counter at licensing offices, via drop-in boxes or by post, the following documents are required: –

1. Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (original or photocopy); or
2. If you are not the holder of a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card, please provide your Hong Kong Identity Card (original or photocopy) **and** supporting documents proving that you are not subject to any condition of stay other than a limit of stay as defined in section 2(1) of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) (e.g. endorsement / landing slips on travel documents, visa / entry permit issued by the Immigration Department, etc.) (original or photocopy); and
3. Original or photocopy of present address proof (residential address and correspondence address) issued within the last 3 months (e.g. utility or telecommunication bills, correspondence from banks, insurance companies, government departments, local universities, local or international charitable organization); and
4. The duly completed Application for Full Driving Licence (TD 557); and
5. The required fee for the issue of a driving licence (not applicable for driving licence endorsement); and
6. Medical Examination Certificate (TD 256) duly completed by a registered medical practitioner (applicable to a person aged 70 or above).

Applicants who would like to apply for a driving licence online must possess an “iAM Smart+” account with digital signing function or a valid personal digital certificate for the application. Please refer to GovHK's website at <https://www.gov.hk/en/residents/transport/drivinglicense/onlineservices.htm>.

For licence application or renewal, applicants are required to provide either a Hong Kong Mobile Phone Number or Email Address that is frequently used, which they can be contacted through SMS or Email, as the E-Contact Means (ECM). Applicants shall verify the said ECM by One-time Password (OTP) so that the application can be processed. For details please refer to Transport Department's thematic webpage: https://www.td.gov.hk/en/public_forms/td_forms/ecmvt/index.html.

According to the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations (Cap. 374B), any candidate who applies for the issue of driving licence to drive an articulated vehicle after 3 years from the date that the candidate passed his / her test will not be entertained by the Transport Department.

<i>Licensing Offices</i>		<i>Tel. No.</i>
Hong Kong Licensing Office:	3/F., United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong.	2804 2636
Kowloon Licensing Office:	2/F., Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon.	2150 7728
Kwun Tong Licensing Office:	5/F., East Kowloon Government Offices, 12 Lei Yue Mun Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.	2775 6835
Shatin Licensing Office:	2/F., Shatin Government Offices, 1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Sha Tin, N.T.	2606 1468

If you wish to submit your application in person / by agent over the counter at Licensing Office, you may make an appointment for counter service in advance either online via GovHK's website (<https://www.gov.hk/en/residents/transport/drivinglicense/abs.htm>) or by calling the 24-hour Interactive Voice Response System of the Appointment Booking Service at 3763 8080 to reduce waiting time.

If no prior appointment has been made, applicants are required to obtain a same-day queue ticket on-site before using the counter services for applications in relation to driving licence and driving test. Please refer to our website at https://www.td.gov.hk/en/public_services/licences_and_permits/tqts/index.html for more information on the queue ticketing system and daily ticket quotas.

2. Unsuccessful Candidates

Unsuccessful candidates can apply to re-take the articulated vehicle driving test 4 working days after the date of their test through the following ways: –

- Online booking for articulated vehicle driving test by visiting the GovHK website (<http://www.gov.hk/en/residents/transport/drivinglicense/roadtest.htm>). Candidates may apply for an end-of-list driving test appointment or a repeater early test appointment (Note: Applicants who would like to apply for an end-of-list driving test appointment online must possess a valid personal digital certificate issued by recognised Certification Authorities or 'iAM Smart' account with digital signing function (i.e. "iAM Smart+")) for authentication; and a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, UnionPay or JCB), a PPS account, a FPS account or Chinese Mainland's Licensed Digital Wallets (Alipay, WeChat Pay or China UnionPay QuickPass) for online payment.) Please contact the Driving Test Appointment Office at 2771 7723 for enquiries.
- Approach the designated driving schools for re-enrolment and arrangement of test appointments, or submit the application together with the necessary documents listed below by post to "Transport Department P.O. Box No. 79, Shatin Central Post Office" and mark "Application for Driving Test (Commercial Vehicle) (TD 321)" on the envelope: –
 1. Copy of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card / Hong Kong Identity Card / an alternative identity document previously registered in the Transport Department;
 2. The duly completed Application for a Driving Test (Commercial Vehicle) (TD 321);

3. The required fee for the purchase of the relevant driving test form (please pay by crossed cheque or cashier order, payable to “The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”. Do not send in cash); and
4. Medical Examination Certificate (TD 256) duly completed by a registered medical practitioner (applicable to a person aged 70 or above).

Pay Sufficient Postage for Mails

Underpaid mail items are subject to surcharge by the Hongkong Post. This department will not accept underpaid mail items, which will be returned to the sender (with return address) or disposed of (without return address) by the Hongkong Post. For proper delivery of your mail items to the department, and to avoid unnecessary delivery delay or unsuccessful delivery, applicants should ensure their mail items bear sufficient postage with return address before posting. Please pay attention to details about postage and to the latest effective New Postage Structure.

3. Result of Driving Test

The result of the driving test as shown on the copy of the test form is subject to final verification by this Department. Should an amendment of the verdict be found necessary in the course of verification, the candidate will receive by post a notice to this effect and will be invited to the Driving Services Section for the purpose of updating the test result.

Appendix - Braking System and Safe Driving

Introduction

Drivers of articulated vehicles (AV) should ensure road safety and safety of other road users when driving. When they perform uncoupling of the AV, they should choose an area which is flat and firm. If they park the AV for a long period of time, they should park them on a flat road surface. Drivers should apply the trailer parking brake and lower the trailer supporting legs when parking. After re-coupling, the drivers should drive the tractor a little bit forward to ensure the king pin is tugged securely. According to the Road Traffic Ordinance, the maximum speed of AV on expressway is 70km/hr.

Braking System

The braking system can slow down or stop a moving vehicle or to keep the vehicle at a standstill when parked on slopes.

The braking force is generated by friction between components which transform the kinetic energy into heat energy and disperse into air. Upon applying the brake, the brake shoes are activated and rubbed against the brake drums and this action generates heat energy which heats up the two braking components. However, when the temperature of the brake shoes rises, the braking efficiency is reduced. Hence, if the brake is applied when the vehicle is running at high speed, or running down a slope for a long distance, or the brakes are applied frequently within a short period of time, the braking efficiency drops. This phenomenon is called brake fade.

Power-assisted Braking System

When the driver depresses the footbrake, the compressed air is sent to the brake pumps and the braking system is activated. There are different types of warning devices for the low pressure of the compressed air. When the pressure of the compressed air drops (normally less than 4 bars or 60 psi), such warning device will be activated and give warning signals to the driver.

If the warning device is activated when a driver is driving, the driver must pull up the vehicle as soon as possible at a safe place and check against the braking system until the situation is rectified; otherwise, the vehicle must not be moved off again.

To check for air leakage, the driver should build up the air pressure to the highest value, and with the engine turning off, find someone to depress the brake for him / her and then listen for the air leaking noise.

To avoid corrosion of the air tanks as well as to maintain sufficient air pressure in the tanks, the driver must drain the tanks frequently.

Safety Precaution

Before moving off, the driver must ensure that there are sufficient air pressure in the tanks (normally the minimum safety operation pressure is **not** less than 4 bars or 60 psi).

When driving downslope, a driver should select a suitable low gear so that the vehicle is driven with the engine brake. **Never** select neutral and let the vehicle coast down the slope because there will be a loss of speed control and the air pressure cannot be built up with idling rotations of an engine.

The Use of Parking Brake (Handbrake)

The parking brake should only be used after the vehicle is parked or in the case of emergency braking when the footbrake is not functioning well. If leakage occurs in the footbrake system resulting in the brake failure, drivers should be able to make use of the parking brake to stop the vehicle, the reason being that the parking brake system is separated from the footbrake system.

Running Down Slopes

The vehicle will automatically accelerate when running downslope due to gravitational force, resulting in loss of control of the vehicle; the situation becomes exceptionally awkward when the vehicle is fully loaded. Brake-fade will occur due to overheating of brake-shoes if retardation depends solely on footbrake, therefore, when running down slopes, especially the long ones, drivers should first decelerate, engage the exhaust brake (applicable to vehicles equipped with this function), and engage low gears to ensure maximum safety.

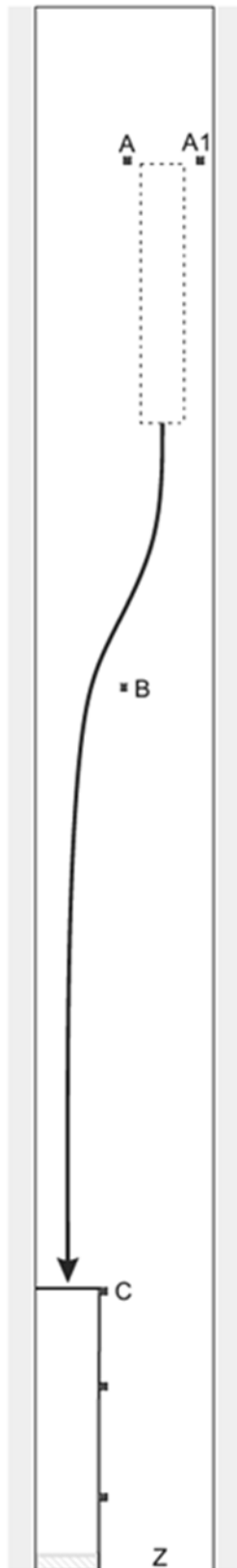
Use of Exhaust Brake

This is a supplementary engine braking system, which controls the flow of exhaust gases to reduce the vehicle speed by retarding revolution of the engine. It can relieve partially the burden of the footbrake to avoid brake fade due to overheating. Generally speaking, when running on level ground or uphill, it is not necessary to activate this brake. However, when running downslope for a long distance, this brake is quite effective in particular when the vehicle is driven in low gear.

Skilful Driving

Candidates should be fully conversant with the use of various controls so as to handle various road conditions. Candidates should bear in mind that the improper control of a loaded articulated vehicle would lead to fatal consequences – for example, staying in high gears when driving downslope for a long distance. In this case, the vehicle gains speed and a great momentum will be built up resulting in the vehicle not being pulled up at a driver's estimated time and distance, or "jack-knifing" occurs if the footbrake is applied abruptly.

Supplementary Sketch



MANOEUVRING TEST – REVERSING

This test commences from a position with the front of the test vehicle in line with marker cones A and A1. The candidate has to reverse the test vehicle into the cone C area, keeping marker cone B on the offside, and stops with the extreme rear of the test vehicle within the 1-metre stopping area.

Distance:

A – A1 = 1 1/2 times the width of the vehicle

A – B = 2 times the length of the vehicle

B – Line Z = 3 times the length of the vehicle

The width of the cone C area is 1 1/2 times the width of the vehicle. The length of the bay is based on the length of the vehicle, plus 1-metre stopping area at the discretion of the examiner.