

Construction Equipment Inspection Checklist

Complete before every shift, per OSHA 29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2). If any item fails, stop: tag the equipment out of service and report the defect before it's used again.

EQUIPMENT ID / UNIT #	MAKE / MODEL	DATE	SHIFT / TIME
OPERATOR NAME		HOUR METER / ODOMETER	OWNED / RENTED (CIRCLE)
EQUIPMENT TYPE (CIRCLE ONE): EXCAVATOR / WHEEL LOADER / SKID STEER / BULLDOZER / CRANE / FORKLIFT / DUMP TRUCK / OTHER: -----			

1 Previous Defects & Open Work Orders

CHECK	YES	NO
All previous defects on this unit have been resolved and cleared	☐	☐
No open work orders or maintenance tickets remain unresolved	☐	☐

2 360-Degree Walk-Around

Key off. Walk the full perimeter before starting the engine.

ITEM	PASS	FAIL
No fresh fluid stains underneath, structural damage, or missing guards	☐	☐
Access ladders, steps, and handholds secure	☐	☐
Decals, warning labels, and capacity plate legible	☐	☐

3 Engine, Fluids & Cooling System

ITEM	PASS	FAIL
Engine oil level	☐	☐
Coolant level	☐	☐
Hydraulic fluid level (reservoir sight gauge)	☐	☐
Belts and hoses — no cracking, glazing, or looseness	☐	☐
Air filter and radiator / cooling fins — free of debris buildup	☐	☐

4 Hydraulic System

ITEM	PASS	FAIL
Hoses and fittings — no leaks, cracking, or bulging	☐	☐
Cylinders — no leaks or visible damage	☐	☐
Reservoir fluid level and clarity	☐	☐

5 Tires, Tracks & Undercarriage

Complete the column that matches this unit — wheeled or tracked.

Wheeled Equipment

- ☐ Tire pressure, tread wear, sidewall condition
- ☐ Lug nuts tight

Tracked Equipment

- ☐ Track tension correct
- ☐ Track pads and rollers — no missing or damaged
- ☐ Undercarriage — no excessive wear or debris buildup

6 Frame, ROPS & Attachments

ITEM	PASS	FAIL
Frame and structural members — no cracks	☐	☐
ROPS / FOPS intact — no damage or missing hardware	☐	☐
Attachments securely pinned; quick-couplers fully engaged	☐	☐
Attachment matches equipment's rated capacity	☐	☐

7 Cab & Operator Safety Equipment

ITEM	PASS	FAIL
Seat, seatbelt, and seat presence switch function correctly	☐	☐
Mirrors, windows, and wipers give a clear field of view	☐	☐
Fire extinguisher (if carried) charged and accessible	☐	☐

8 Controls, Steering, Brakes & Warning Systems

Key on. Confirm every safety-critical control responds correctly.

ITEM	PASS	FAIL
Service and parking brakes hold	☐	☐
Steering response — no excessive play	☐	☐
Directional and attachment controls through full range	☐	☐
Horn, backup alarm, and warning lights all work	☐	☐

9 Operational Test & Sign-Off

ITEM	PASS	FAIL
Low-load functional cycle — smooth operation, no unusual noise or vibration	☐	☐

Fail any item, stop. If a control feels sluggish, delayed, or inconsistent, treat it as a fail even if it technically still functions. A single failed item takes the equipment out of service.

10 Equipment-Specific Checks

Add the checks below for this unit's equipment type, on top of Sections 1–9.

EQUIPMENT TYPE	ADD THESE CHECKS
Excavators	Boom and stick pin wear, swing bearing and gear condition, bucket teeth and cutting edge wear
Wheel Loaders	Articulation joint and pin wear, bucket linkage condition, tire chunking and cuts
Skid Steers	Lift arm and quick-attach coupler engagement, cab door / restraint bar function, tip-over protection structure
Bulldozers	Blade lift cylinder condition, track tension and sprocket wear, ripper (if equipped) pin and shank condition
Cranes	Wire rope condition and reeving, hook and latch integrity, load moment / anti-two-block system function, outrigger and pad condition
Forklifts	Fork and heel condition, mast and lift chain slack, data / capacity plate legibility, overhead guard integrity
Dump Trucks	Bed hoist cylinder and hydraulic function, tailgate latch condition, bed-up warning indicator, brake and air system function

Cranes and forklifts carry additional regulatory requirements: crane shift inspections under OSHA 29 CFR 1926.1412, and forklift design/inspection standards referenced in 29 CFR 1926.602, including ANSI/ITSDF B56.1.

DEFECTS / NOTES — NAME THE COMPONENT, DESCRIBE THE ISSUE IN PLAIN TERMS, ATTACH A PHOTO IF POSSIBLE

Overall Result

☐ PASS — Safe to operate ☐ FAIL — Tag out of service

If this equipment failed: tag it out of service immediately, report the defect through your maintenance channel (supervisor, ticket, or digital report), and keep it parked until a qualified technician clears it. Don't rely on a verbal heads-up at shift change.

OPERATOR SIGNATURE

DATE / TIME

REVIEWED BY (IF FAILED)

DATE / TIME

Reference: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2) requires frequent and regular inspections of jobsite equipment by a competent person; 29 CFR 1926.1412(d)(1) requires a documented shift inspection for cranes. Keep completed inspection records — at least one year of history is standard practice.

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