



American Association of  
Motor Vehicle Administrators

# CDL TESTING UPDATE

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## **OUR VISION**

*Safe drivers*

*Safe vehicles*

*Secure identities*

*Saving lives!*

# Approval of Modernized Test



On 8/11/22, FMCSA approved a modernized CDL test – the new exam doesn't replace current tests, it's another option



The modernized test has the same high standards for assessing an entry-level commercial driver's ability using up-to-date technology



The modernized test improves test administration effectiveness & efficiency by allowing a smaller footprint for the basic control skills (BCS) test pads & reducing the length of the vehicle inspection (VI)



FMCSA ELDT rules still require training on current test version, but modernized test is similar in many ways to the current version

# Modernized Vehicle Inspection Test (VI)

- Much remains the same:
  - The scoring criteria remains the same with some enhancements to the Examiner's Manual
  - Score form layout
  - Marking the score form
  - Automatic failures



# What is Different?

- Every applicant will perform FULL VI
- Fewer items with focus on critical safety items
- VI checklist available for applicants to use during the new exam
- Driver's Manual now includes "Description" and "Why Inspect" (rationale). Driver's and Examiner's Manuals will be in sync on criteria
- Revised coupling system criteria

**Class B or Class C Checklist**  
**Passenger or School Bus**

**In-Vehicle/Engine Start**

- ☐ \*air or \*hydraulic brake check
- ☐ parking & trailer brake check
- ☐ service brake check
- ☐ lighting indicators
- ☐ emergency equipment
- ☐ windshield & traffic monitoring devices
- ☐ wipers & washers
- ☐ heater & defroster
- ☐ horn(s)

**Passenger and School Bus Only**

- ☐ passenger entry & lift
- ☐ emergency exits
- ☐ passenger seating
- ☐ passenger monitoring devices

**School Bus Only**

- ☐ student lights (front & back)
- ☐ stop arm(s) & safety arm
- ☐ first aid & body fluid kits

**Lights Operations Check**

- ☐ all external lights

**Front of Vehicle/Engine Area**

- ☐ lenses
- ☐ fluid levels
- ☐ fluid & air leaks
- ☐ steering systems

**Steering Axle**

- ☐ tires
- ☐ rims
- ☐ lug nuts
- ☐ springs & air bags & shocks
- ☐ brake lines or hoses & leaks
- ☐ brake contaminates

**Side of Vehicle**

- ☐ lenses & reflectors
- ☐ traffic monitoring devices
- ☐ battery
- ☐ fuel tank(s)
- ☐ frame(s)

**Rear of Vehicle**

- ☐ lenses & reflectors




\* Automatic failure if not performed correctly

You are only required to inspect the items on the CDL Vehicle Inspection checklist. You may use this checklist for your test and check off items as you have completed them, **NO** additional markings or writing may be placed on this list. You **MUST** name, point to and/or touch and fully explain what you are inspecting each safety critical item for. If you do not do so, you will not get credit for the item(s).

# What is Different? (cont.)

- Calculate number of items missed
- Four-part Air Brakes Check
  - Air Gauge and Governor Cutoff Check
  - Air Leakage Rate Test
  - Air Warning Device(s) Test
  - Emergency Brake(s) Test

VEHICLE INSPECTION TEST	
<b>In-Vehicle/Engine Start</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> *air (1-2-3-4) or *hydraulic brake check</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> parking &amp; trailer brake check</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> service brake check</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lighting indicators (L-R-4-H-ABS-DEF)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> emergency equipment (F-E-T)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> windshield &amp; traffic monitoring devices</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> wipers &amp; washers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> heater &amp; defroster</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> horn(s)</li> </ul>	<b>Steering Axle</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> tires (I-C-D)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> rims</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lug nuts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> springs/mounts &amp; air bags &amp; shocks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> brake lines or hoses &amp; leaks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> brake contaminates</li> </ul>
<b>Passenger/School Bus Only</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> passenger entry &amp; lift</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> emergency exits</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> passenger seating</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> passenger monitoring devices</li> </ul>	<b>Side of Vehicle</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lenses &amp; reflectors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> traffic monitoring devices</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> battery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> fuel tank(s)/DEF tank</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> frame(s)</li> </ul>
<b>School Bus Only</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> student lights (front &amp; back)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> stop arm(s) &amp; safety arm</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> first aid &amp; body fluid kits</li> </ul>	<b>Rear of Vehicle or Trailer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lenses &amp; reflectors</li> </ul>
<b>Lights Operations Check</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> L-R-4-HL-HB-C-BL-TL</li> </ul>	<b>Combination Vehicles Only</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> air &amp; electric lines &amp; connectors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> fifth wheel skid plate or pintle hook or tow hitch</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> kingpin &amp; apron &amp; gap or drawbar ring &amp; tongue or coupler &amp; tongue</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> locking &amp; safety devices</li> </ul>
<b>Front of Vehicle/Engine Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lenses</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> fluid levels (O-C-PS-HF)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> fluid &amp; air leaks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> steering systems</li> </ul>	<b>Trailer Only</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> landing gear &amp; clearance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> reflective tape</li> </ul>
<p><b>* Automatic failure if not performed correctly</b></p>	
<p><b>TOTAL VI SCORE (total missed)</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 40px; height: 20px; vertical-align: middle;"></span></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Failure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Failure to Follow Instructions</p>	
<p><b>REFER TO APPENDIX A FOR PASSING SCORES</b></p>	



# Modernized Basic Controls Skills Test (BCS)

- Much remains the same:
  - Incorporates maneuvers to reduce test footprint:
    - ✓ Straight-line backing
    - ✓ Offset backing
    - ✓ Parallel parking
    - ✓ Reverse docking
  - Pullups, encroachments, looks, final position & stopping the driver on encroachment to return within boundary lines scored the same
  - Score form layout and marking the score form the same
  - Automatic failures the same



# What is Different With BCS

Smaller footprint

Forward Stop Box

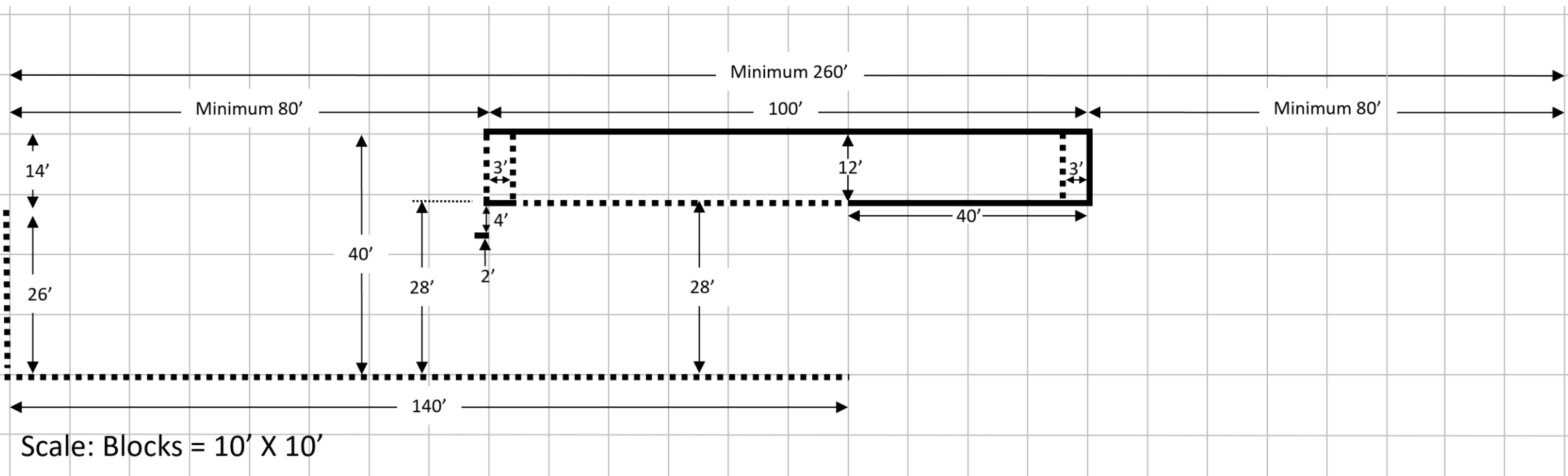
Forward Offset  
Tracking

Scoring  
“Clearance” on  
Forward Offset  
Tracking

Scoring “Back-  
ups” on forward  
moving exercises

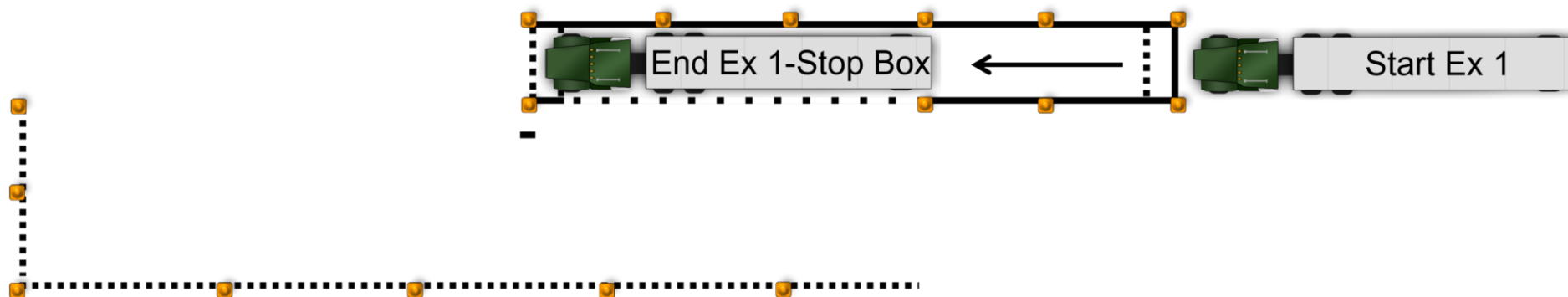
Reverse Offset  
Tracking vs.  
Parallel and Alley  
Dock

# Layout of Modernized BCS Test

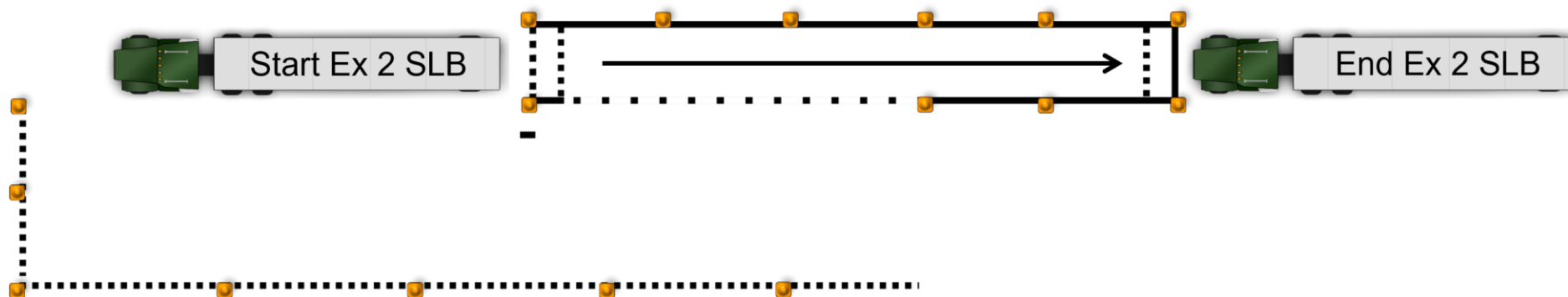




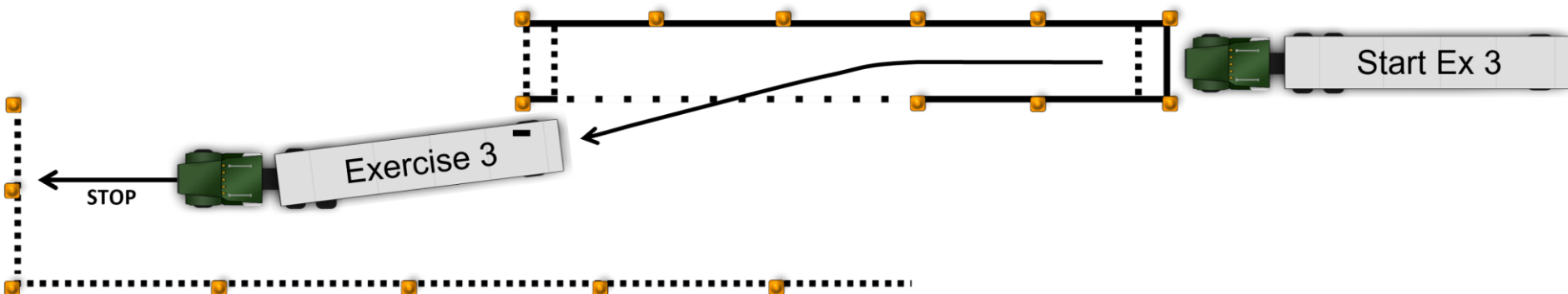
## Exercise 1 – Forward Stop



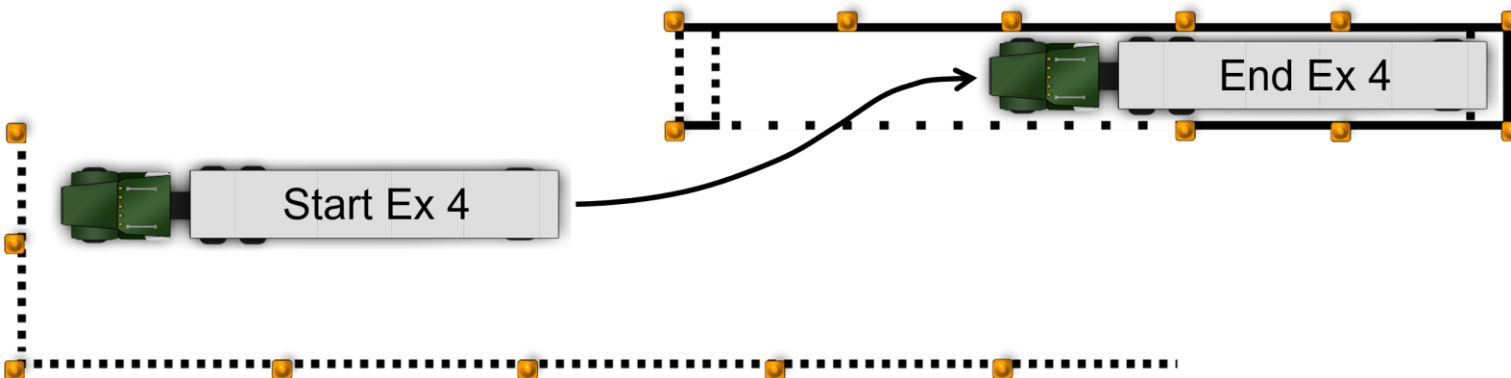
## Exercise 2 – Straight-line Backing



## Exercise 3 – Forward Offset Tracking



## Exercise 4 – Reverse Offset Backing



# Next Steps For Training Modernized Test

Jurisdictions may continue using the current version of the exam, offer only the modernized version or offer both

We have heard from most states and about 40% want to move to begin offering the modernized version in 2023, a handful don't plan to offer the modernized version at this time, and the rest plan to rollout in 2024-2025

Many states will offer both the current and modernized exam as they begin training examiners on the modernized test

Jurisdictions can choose whatever path they wish

# States Moving to Modernized Test in 2023

Connecticut	Ohio	Maryland
Arkansas	Nevada	New Hampshire
California	New Jersey	Virginia
Colorado	New Mexico	
Connecticut	North Dakota	
Georgia	Ohio	
Idaho	Oklahoma	
Indiana	Pennsylvania	
Iowa	Rhode Island	
Kansas	South Carolina	
Kentucky	South Dakota	
Louisiana	Texas	
Minnesota	Vermont	
Montana	Washington	
Nebraska	Air Force	

# Considerations For Jurisdictions



How to inform examiners/schools/public about modernized test



Budget needs & funding sources for changes to testing facilities, replacing manuals, training examiners, contractors, etc.



Balancing time needed to train examiners on modernized test with need for examiners to continue doing CDL testing



Number of trainers needed to provide training on modernized test and time needed between training & implementation of new test



Some jurisdictions estimate need several months to implement



**For More Information Contact:**

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