

# Pre-use Inspection Guidance

## Winter Ops



Pre-use inspection is a vital part of equipment operations – it’s one of the most effective ways of **identifying evolving issues** and therefore protecting the **safety of operators, pedestrians** and **aircraft**. During the winter months, when visibility is at its worst and driving conditions are at their most hazardous, the general functionality and condition of equipment is even more critical.

In this checklist, we’ve compiled a list of some common components you might find on winter equipment and simple checks you can make to ensure safe and efficient operations. You’ll find other, more general components on our earlier pre-use inspection checklist.

Remember:

- Your equipment may have additional components that must be checked
- Always follow the manufacturer’s guidance
- If you find a defect: report it and have it repaired.

### Wipers and Washers



- Check the condition of the wiper blades
- Check the wiper blades aren’t frozen to the screen
- Remove all dirt and ice
- Ensure the washer bottle is sufficiently filled with the correct mixture of anti-freeze/detergent
- Check jet alignment and function

### Lights



- Check lenses for damage/cracks
- Check lenses are clean and free of ice/dirt build-up
- Check that all bulbs work
- Ensure all working lights function and are correctly angled

### Wheels and Tyres



- Check for missing or loose wheel nuts
- Check wheel rims for damage and distortion
- Tyres should be checked for signs of damage
- Check tyre tread depths and tyre pressures
- Check for foreign bodies in tyres: nails, debris, etc
- On double-wheeled vehicles, check for potential FOD between the tyres
- Ensure all wheel guards and spray suppression fittings are secure and free from damage

## Steering



- Check for excessive play in the steering and unusual noises (ideally, move the vehicle forward, do not test the steering while the vehicle is stationary)
- Turn the wheel to full lock in both directions and check for stiffness

## Drive and Braking



- Engage forward and reverse to check for smooth operation and positive response to the controls (you may prefer to use an assistant when reversing)
- Check that acceleration is smooth and controlled – note and report any hesitancy
- Check that the brakes slow the vehicle in a straight and controlled manner – there should be no snatching or grabbing
- Check that there is resistance in the brake pedal – it should not travel to the floor
- If the vehicle has air brakes, listen for signs of leaks – also check for warning buzzers and instrument warning lights
- Ensure that moisture is regularly drained from the air tanks to prevent ice forming in the winter months

## Battery



- Check that the battery is secure
- Visually check for leaks and corrosion
- Visually check that cables are not kinked or trapped, frayed or generally in poor condition
- Check that protective covers close and lock into place

## Radio(s)



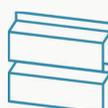
- Check that all radios function
- Check for clarity of signal and volume
- Check that all radios can send and receive

## Proximity Sensors



- Check all sensors are secured and free from damage
- Ensure all sensors are unobstructed and clean
- Check that all audible and visual systems function

## Covers and Access Panels



- Check that all doors, covers and access panels close and lock securely
- Panels should be free from damage
- If relevant, check that ventilation is not blocked with snow or debris

Auxiliary  
Engines/APUs  
(if relevant)



- Check the fuel filter sight glass for signs of water build-up
- Confirm adequate fuel level for operations
- If a visual indicator is available, check the air filter
- Check oil and coolant level (the engine must be off)
- Check for signs of oil leaks
- Ensure that the APU can be started and shut down
- Check that all warning lights function as per the manufacturer's manual
- Ensure the engine is at the correct temperature before activating attachments

PTOs  
(if relevant)



- Visually check that the PTO can be activated and shut down

Hydraulic  
systems



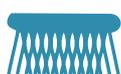
- Visually check all hydraulic hoses/pipes for cracks and leaks – **Never touch hydraulic hoses!**
- Ensure that all hoses/pipes are secured correctly
- Check that dust caps are fitted to any unused connectors/couplings
- Check that the hydraulic oil level is correct and ensure the filler cap is secured
- Ensure that correct operating temperature is achieved before activating hydraulic equipment

Blower  
Assemblies  
(check as appropriate)



- Confirm that the blower activates and deactivates
- Check that the blower moves in all directions

Brush  
Assemblies  
(check as appropriate)



- Check the condition of the guard
- Confirm that the distance between the brush and the guard is satisfactory
- Check the condition of the brushes – check the wear strips if present
- Check that the brushes activate and deactivate as required
- Check that the brushes traverse in all required directions

**Plough Assemblies**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check the plough for signs of damage/distortion
- Check that any adjustment links are locked off
- Check the lubrication of links and pivots
- If relevant, check that the plough folds and unfolds as required
- Check that the plough traverses in all required directions, and maintains float and travel positions

**Plough Blade**  
(check as appropriate)



- Inspect the wear strip
- Check the condition of the guide wheels and tyres

**Snow Deflection Panels**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check the condition and position of the snow deflection panel

**Support Chains**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check the general condition of chains, look for signs of damage or corrosion
- If safety clips are fitted, check they are in good condition
- Inspect all anchor points for signs of damage or wear

**Spray Bars**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check spray bars for general signs of damage/distortion
- Check that all nozzles are securely in place and in good condition
- Check linkages and pivots for signs of damage
- Ensure all locking pins are securely in place

**Boom Jockey Wheels**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check for signs of damage
- Ensure that all wheels are securely fitted
- If relevant, check tyre pressures

**Snow Cutter**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check for signs of damage
- Ensure that there is no debris caught in the blades
- Check that the ribbon blade housing is in good condition and that it is secure
- Check that the blades power up and shut down as required
- Check for excessive noise or vibration when running the blades

**Dry Media Spinners**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check the spinners for general condition
- Check for debris caught in the spinners
- Ensure that the spinners activate and deactivate as required
- If a camera is fitted, ensure the lens is clean and that the in-cab monitor functions
- Check dry media conveyor belts for signs of damage and check that they function correctly
- Checks for signs of wear and tears

**Liquid Storage Tanks**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check the general condition of the storage tank
- Check for signs of leaks

**Dry Media Hopper**  
(check as appropriate)



- Check the general condition of the hopper – look for signs of cracks, corrosion, rust, etc
- Inspect securing bolts and mountings

**Weather Guard/Protection**  
(check as appropriate)



- If a weather guard/cover is fitted to a hopper, ensure it is securely fitted in place
- Inspect hopper covers for rips and tears

**Auger**  
(check as appropriate)



- Inspect the auger for signs of solid media debris
- Check that the auger activates and deactivates

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[www.rtitb-airside.com](http://www.rtitb-airside.com)  
[solutions@rtitb-airside.com](mailto:solutions@rtitb-airside.com)

UK +44 1952 520 239  
India +91 9999 169 400

