

## Section 12

# Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

### This Section Covers

- ✓ Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test Exercises
- ✓ Scoring For The Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

The basic vehicle control skills test consists of four basic off-road exercises.

- ✓ Forward stop.
- ✓ Straight line backing.
- ✓ Alley dock.
- ✓ Right turn.

These exercises are shown in Figures 12-1 through 12-4.

**Remember, you must pass the pre-trip vehicle inspection test before the basic vehicle control skills test; you must pass the basic vehicle control skills test before proceeding to the on-road driving test.**

### 12.1 Scoring

#### Crossing Boundaries

The examiner will score the number of times you touch or cross over an exercise boundary line or any part of a cone with any portion of your vehicle. Each encroachment will count as an error.

#### Pull-ups

In some of the exercises, the examiner will also score the number of times you stop your vehicle and change direction (or pull-up) during the exercise. Each pull-up will count as an error.

#### Final Positioning

At the end of each exercise, the examiner will assess how well your vehicle is positioned within the exercise boundaries.

### Passing Score

The passing score for the basic vehicle control skills test segment is 9 or fewer errors.

### Test Instructions

The examiner will read instructions just prior to the beginning of each exercise and show you a diagram similar to one of those in this section. The examiner will read the following overview of the basic control skills exercises just prior to the first exercise.

*“This test consists of a series of basic control exercises. Try not to go over any exercise lines or hit any of the cones with any part of your vehicle. The foot of each cone or line marks the exercise boundary. I will explain the boundaries for each exercise as we come to it. You will be scored on how your vehicle finishes within the exercise boundaries. You will be penalized each time you stop your vehicle and change direction to gain better positioning. You will also be penalized each time your vehicle touches or crosses over an exercise boundary. If you see me raise my hand like this at any time during the exercises (examiner raises hand straight up, palm out), stop your vehicle. If you have any questions, please ask.”*

If you do not understand the instructions, ask questions. You may inspect the exercise course at this time and ask the examiner questions to help you better understand the exercises. The examiner is not allowed to answer questions about an exercise after the exercise begins.

## 12.2 Exercises

### Forward stop

You will be asked to drive forward between two rows of cones and bring your vehicle to a complete stop as close as you can to the exercise boundary marked by an end line and a set of cones (without touching or going beyond the line or cones). You cannot open your door, lean out the window or stand up to improve your view. You will be scored on how close your vehicle finishes near the stop line at the end of the alley without touching or going beyond it. (See Figure 12-1.)

The examiner will read the following instructions just prior to the forward stop exercise:

“Drive down the alley and stop with the front bumper of your vehicle as close as possible to the last line at the end of the alley without going past the line. Don't lean out the window, stand up, or open the door to see better. When I get to the end of the alley, I will wave you forward. Tap your horn when you are finished. Do you have any questions?”

If you do not understand the instructions, ask questions at this time and be certain you understand the exercise before you begin. The examiner may not answer questions after the exercise begins.

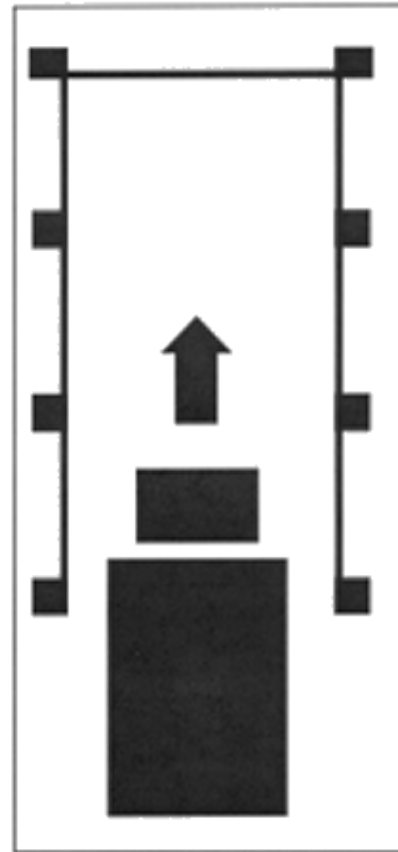


Figure 12–1 Forward stop

### Straight Line Backing

You will be asked to back your vehicle in a straight line between two rows of cones without touching or crossing over the exercise boundaries. You will be scored on the number of pull-ups and encroachments you make while backing your vehicle through the alley (See Figure 12-2). The examiner will read the following instructions just prior to the straight line backing exercise:

“Drive forward until I signal you to stop. I will then signal you to back down the alley. When backing, do not cross over the side boundaries of the alley with any part of your vehicle. Stop after your front bumper clears the last set of cones at the end of the alley. Tap your horn when you are finished. Do you have any questions?”

If you do not understand the instructions, ask questions at this time and be certain you understand the exercise before you begin.

## Alley Dock

You will be asked to sight-side back your vehicle (from a 90 degree angle) into an alley, bringing the rear of your vehicle as close as possible to the rear of the alley without touching or crossing over any exercise boundary marked by a line or row of cones. (See Figure 12-3.)

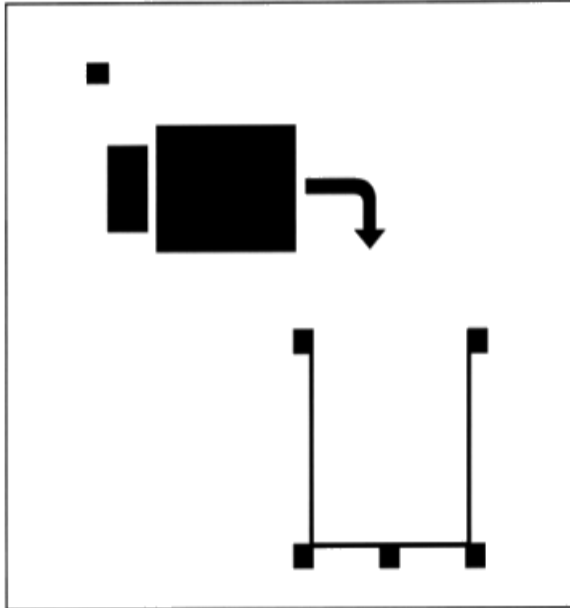


Figure 12-3 Right turn

The examiner will read the following instructions just prior to the alley dock exercise:

*“Drive straight past the entrance of the alley. (Examiner points down range.) You may drive straight past the entrance of the alley as far as necessary to set up for backing. Once your vehicle is in position, I will signal you to back into the alley. When backing, keep your vehicle inside that boundary cone. (Examiner points to reference cone.) You must try to position your vehicle between the side boundaries of the dock area. Try to get the rear of your vehicle as close as possible to the cones located at the back of the alley without going past them. Tap your horn when you are finished. Do you have any questions?”*

If you do not understand the instructions, ask questions at this time and be certain you understand the exercise before you begin.

## Right Turn

You will be asked to drive forward and make a right turn around a cone, bringing the right rear wheel(s) of your vehicle as close as possible to the cone without touching or crossing over the foot of the cone with any part of your vehicle. The examiner scores the number of pull-ups, encroachments and the amount of clearance your vehicle has as your right rear wheel(s) pass by the cone. (See Figure 12-4.)

The examiner will read the following instructions just prior to the right turn exercise:

*“Drive slowly forward and make a right turn around the cone. Try to bring your rear wheels as close to the base of the cone as you can without hitting it. Do not let any part of your vehicle cross over the foot of the cone. When I wave you forward, come ahead and make the turn. Tap your horn when you are finished. Do you have any questions?”*

If you do not understand the instructions, ask questions at this time and be certain you understand the exercise before you begin.

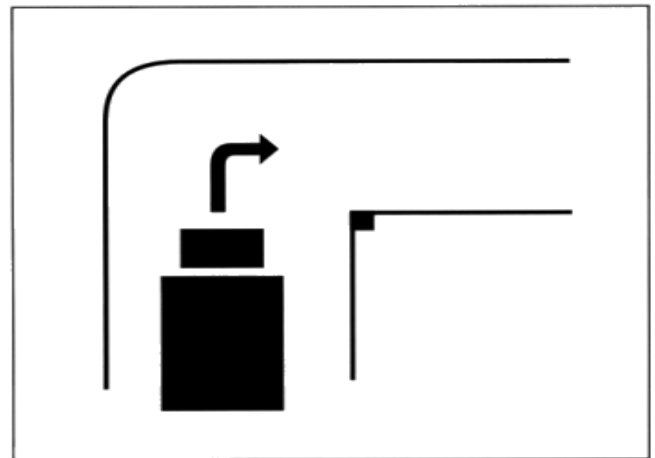


Figure 12-4 Right turn