



Civilian Armoured Vehicles (CAVs) The Essence of Protection, Discretion and Mobility

10 Daily Safety Checks – Everyday!

In my last article, I wrote about the need for regular and scheduled maintenance.

Equally, if not more important, is the need to conduct a daily safety check – each and every day – even if you are not using the vehicle (you can never be sure when you will need to use the vehicle and so you must make sure that it is always ready for safe use).

Any critical vehicle asset (and regular passenger vehicle) needs to be suitably checked for safety and fitness for purpose before use. The last thing you want is to start on your journey and end up on the side of the road waiting for emergency help. Certainly not a great situation to be in when you are in a volatile and hostile operating area.

So what should your daily safety checklist look like?

Here are 10 ideas to get you started. As always, any service and support for a civilian armoured vehicle will very much depend on the operating conditions such as dust, snow, rain, heat and cold etc.

1. **Fuel:** There should always be as close to a full tank as is possible. Certainly more than half full. While the mission may only be a short distance, you just never know what may happen and when you will need the confidence that you have enough fuel to complete the mission and return safely back to base. This is an absolute must if the vehicle is to be used for the evacuation of personnel.
2. **Tyres:** Are the tyres in good working condition? Are they correctly inflated to the level recommended by the tyre manufacturer? Don't forget to check also that the spare tyre is in the vehicle and correctly inflated.
3. **Body Damage:** Is there any material body damage that is unaccounted for? Or any body damage that could have an impact on the safe operation of the vehicle?
4. **Under Body:** Is there any unaccounted for liquid under the vehicle?
5. **Safety Systems:** Check that all safety systems are present and operating correctly. This includes the hand brake, horn, windscreen wipers, first aid kit, toolbox and tyre changing kit, fire extinguishers and vehicle recovery equipment such as tow rope etc.
6. **Fluid Levels:** Check that all engine fluids are at their optimal operating levels. This includes engine oil, radiator fluid, brake fluid, transmission fluid and power steering. This is a really good daily check, as you will quickly pick up if any of these critical systems have leaks.
7. **Lights:** Check that all external and internal lights operate correctly.
8. **Driver Controls:** Are all system indicators properly illuminated on the dashboard?
9. **Communications:** Conduct a full radio and phone check and verify that all radio messages and phone calls are being transmitted and received with the control centre.

10. **Climate Control:** Check that the heating and air conditioning are working properly.

Like any good carpenter knows; “measure twice and cut once”. Well in the CAV business, its “Check twice, document and then suitably prepare for the unlikely”.

If I can assist you with any aspects of civilian armoured vehicles, please do not hesitate to contact me at armouredconsulting.com

Written by Rob Getreu, Senior Consultant, **Armoured Consulting**