



*Class Pays*

# *Model 387*



OPERATOR'S MANUAL

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## California Proposition 65 Warning

- Diesel engine exhaust and some of its constituents are known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm.
- Other chemicals in this vehicle are also known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Battery posts, terminals, and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.

# PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This manual contains useful information for the safe and efficient operation of your Peterbilt Model 387 vehicle. It also provides information on maintaining your vehicle in the best condition, with an outline for performing safety checks and basic preventive maintenance inspections.

We have tried to present the information you'll need to learn about your vehicle's functions, controls, and operation - and to present it as clearly as possible. We hope you'll find this manual easy to use.

Please remember, though -- this manual is not a training manual. It can't tell you everything you need to know about driving your Peterbilt vehicle. For that you need a good training program or truck driving school. If you have not been trained, get the proper training before you drive. Only qualified drivers should drive this vehicle.

There will be times when you need to take this manual out of your Peterbilt. When you do, please be sure to return it to the cab when you are finished using it. That way it will be there when you need it the next time or when you pass the vehicle on to the next user.

## How to Find What You Want

There are several tools built into this manual to help you find what you need quickly and easily.

First is the **Quick Table of Contents**. Located at the front of the manual, this lists the main subjects covered and gives page numbers where you can find these subjects. Use the Quick Table of Contents to find information on a large subject like "Maintenance."

Cross-referenced citations also help you get the information you need. If some other part of the manual contains further information on the subject you are reading about, we'll indicate that in a cross-reference like this: (See [PART 6: DRIVER'S CHECKLIST](#)). You won't have to go searching for more information.

Finally you'll find a helpful [PART 11: SUBJECT INDEX](#). It's in the back of the manual and alphabetically lists the subjects covered. So if you want information on brakes, for example, just look under "[Brake](#)" in the Subject Index. You'll find all the pages listed where brakes or braking are discussed.

## A Special Word about Repairs

Your Peterbilt dealer's service center is the best place to have your vehicle repaired. You can find Peterbilt dealers all over the country with the equipment and trained personnel to get you back on the road quickly - and keep you there.

Your vehicle is a complex machine. Anyone attempting repairs on it needs good mechanical training and the proper tools. If you are sure you have these requirements, then you can probably perform some repairs yourself. However, all warranty repairs must be performed by an authorized Peterbilt service facility. If you aren't an experienced

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

mechanic, or don't have the right equipment, please leave all repairs to an authorized service facility. They are the ones equipped to do the job safely and correctly.



***WARNING! Attempting repair work without sufficient training, service manuals, and the proper tools can be dangerous. You could be injured or you could make your truck unsafe. Do only those tasks you are fully qualified to do.***

**Maintenance Manuals.** If you do decide to do any complex repair work, you'll need the Peterbilt Maintenance manuals. Order them from your authorized dealer. Please provide your Chassis Serial Number when you order, to be sure you get the correct manuals for your vehicle. Allow about four weeks for delivery. There will be a charge for these manuals.

**Final Chassis Bill of Material.** A complete, nonillustrated computer printout listing of the parts used to custom-build your Peterbilt vehicle is available through the Peterbilt dealer from whom you purchased your vehicle.



***WARNING! Modifying your vehicle can make it unsafe. Some modifications can affect your truck's electrical system, stability, or other important functions. Before modifying your vehicle, check with your dealer to make sure it can be done safely.***

### Additional Sources of Information

Operator's manuals are also supplied by the manufacturers of components such as the engine, seats, transmission, and radio in your Peterbilt. If you are missing any of these manuals, ask your Peterbilt dealer to supply them.

Your Model 387's glove box also contains a copy of the **Truck Driver's Handbook**, published by the American Trucking Association. Refer to it for important information on driving your vehicle. Another place to learn more about trucking is a local truck driving school. Contact one near you to find out what kinds of instruction it offers.

Federal and state agencies also have information you can ask for. The Interstate Commerce Commission can give you information about regulations governing transportation across state lines. And various agencies in state governments are sources for regulations that differ from state to state.

### Warnings

We've put a number of warning messages in this manual. They are there for your protection and information. Please read them and follow them. They can help you to avoid injury to yourself and your passen-



# PART 1: INTRODUCTION

gers as well as to prevent costly damage to your vehicle. We've used certain symbols and "signal words" to indicate what kind of message is going to follow. When you see these symbols & words, you know that you need to pay special attention. Please don't ignore any of these signals.



## **WARNING!**

When you see this symbol & word, the message that follows is especially vital. This signals something that can cause serious injury or death. This message will tell you what the hazard is, what can happen if you don't heed the warning, and how to avoid it. For example:



**WARNING!** *Attempting repair work without sufficient training, service manuals, and the proper tools can be dangerous. You could be injured or you could make your vehicle unsafe. Do only those tasks you are fully qualified to do.*



## **CAUTION:**

This symbol & word signals something that could damage your vehicle. And you might receive an injury, too. For example:



**CAUTION:** *Continuing to operate a vehicle with insufficient oil pressure will cause serious engine damage.*



## **NOTE:**

Gives you information we feel you'd like to have. It could have to do with care of your vehicle or with driving more efficiently:



**NOTE:** *A cold compressor can cause refrigerant to liquefy and warp the valve plates or cause a hydraulic lock. Warm the engine before starting the air conditioner.*

# PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Please take the time to read the preceding messages when you see them. And remember:

**WARNING!** *Something that could injure you seriously.*

**CAUTION:** *Something that could cause injury to you or your vehicle.*

**NOTE:** *Useful information.*

## Vehicle Safety

Make sure your Peterbilt is in top working condition before heading out on the road—it is the *responsible* driver's duty to do so. Inspect the vehicle according to [PART 6: DRIVER'S CHECKLIST](#).



**WARNING!** *Do not drink and drive. Your reflexes, perceptions, and judgment can be affected by even a small amount of alcohol. You could have a serious—or even fatal accident—if you drive after drinking. Please do not drink and drive or ride with a driver who has been drinking.*



**WARNING!** *The use of alcohol, drugs, and certain medications will seriously impair perception, reactions, and driving ability. These circumstances can substantially increase the risk of an accident and personal injury.*

Please remember, this manual is not a training manual. It cannot tell you everything you need to know about driving your Peterbilt vehicle. For that you need a good training program or truck driving school. If you have not been trained, get the proper training before you drive. Only qualified drivers should drive this vehicle.

Every new Peterbilt vehicle is designed to conform to all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable at the time of manufacture. However, even with these safety features, continued safe and reliable operation depends greatly upon regular vehicle maintenance. The vehicle must be operated within the range of its mechanical capabilities and the limits of its load ratings. See the axle and tire load rating information located on the driver's door jamb.

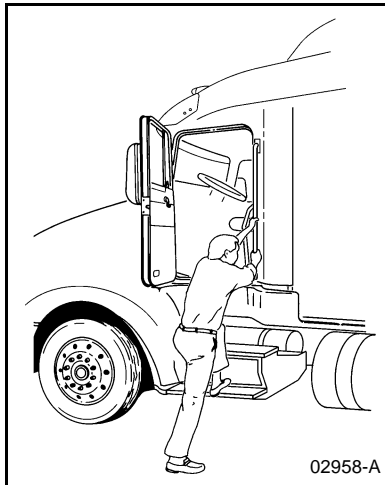
## PART 2: GETTING INTO AND OUT OF THE CAB AND FRAME ACCESS

Be careful whenever you get into or out of your vehicle's cab. Always maintain at least three points of contact with your hands on the grab handles and your feet on the steps.

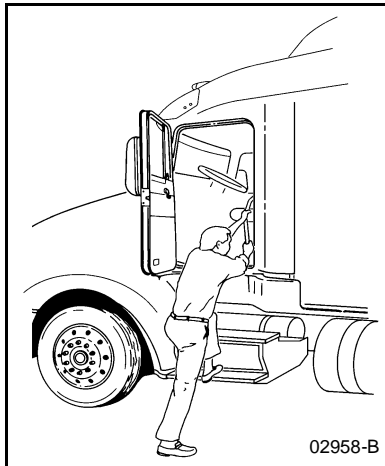


***WARNING! Jumping out of the cab or getting into the cab without proper caution is dangerous. You could slip and fall, possibly suffering a serious injury. Keep steps clean. Clean any fuel, oil, or grease off of your shoes and the steps before entering the cab. Use the steps and grab handles provided, and always keep at least three points of contact between your hands and feet and the truck. Look where you are going.***

The illustrations below show the best ways to enter and exit a cab.



Vehicle With Standard External Grab Handle



Vehicle Without Standard External Grab Handle

## PART 2: GETTING INTO AND OUT OF THE CAB AND FRAME ACCESS

### Door Lock and Keys

Doors can be locked from the inside by using the lock button. Close the door then push the button down to lock. Doors automatically unlock when you open them from inside, and can be locked from the outside with the key only.



**WARNING!** *To lessen the chance and/or severity of personal injury in case of an accident, always lock the doors while driving. Along with using the lap/shoulder belts properly, locking the doors helps prevent occupants from being thrown from the vehicle.*

To lock or unlock the doors from outside the cab, insert the key in the lock. Turn the key toward the rear to lock; forward to unlock.

### Climbing Onto the Deck Plate

When you are climbing onto and off the deck plate, maintain at least three points of contact with your hands on the grab handles and your feet on the steps.



**WARNING!**

- *You can be hurt if you aren't careful climbing onto and off the deck plate. You can slip and fall, especially if the surfaces are wet or icy, or if you step in oil, fuel, or grease. Keep steps clean. Always maintain at least three points of contact between your hands and feet and the steps and deck plate.*
- *Do not climb onto and off the deckplate—use steps and grabhandle provided. If there is no deck plate, or if proper steps and grab handles aren't provided, don't climb onto the area behind the cab. Peterbilt did not intend for the area to be a step if handrails or proper steps are not provided.*



**WARNING!** *Do not step on vehicle components without antiskid surfaces or use components not designed for entry-and-exit use. You could fall and injure yourself if you step on a slippery surface. For example:*

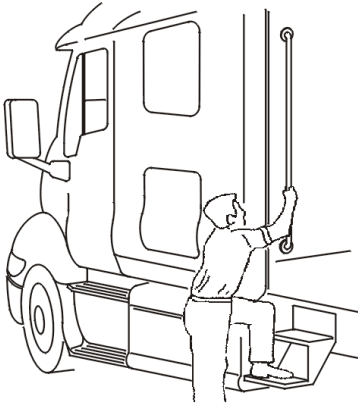
- *You could fall and injure yourself if you step onto a fuel tank surface. A fuel tank is not a step. The tank surface can get very slippery, and you might not be able to prevent a fall. Don't step onto the surface of a fuel tank. Use only the steps and handholds provided, not chain hooks, quarter fenders, etc.*
- *Always reinstall steps before entering the cab or accessing the deck plate. Without steps, you could slip and fall, resulting in possible injury to yourself.*

## PART 2: GETTING INTO AND OUT OF THE CAB AND FRAME ACCESS

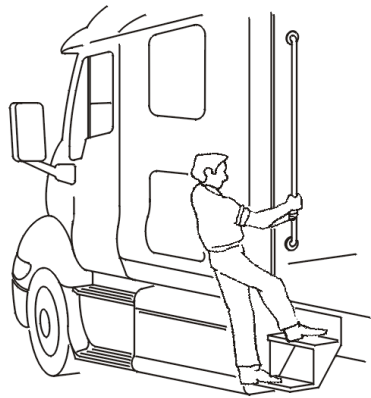
The pictures below show you the right way to get on and off the area behind your cab.



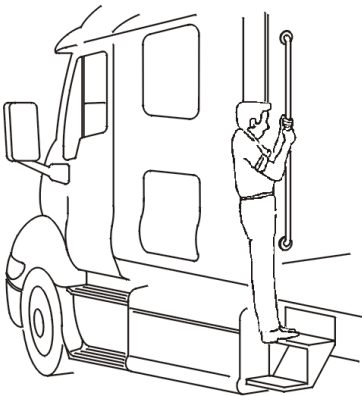
*NOTE: Any alteration (adding bulkheads, headache racks, tool boxes, etc.) behind the cab or sleeper that affects the utilization of grab handles, deck plates, or frame access steps installed by Peterbilt must comply with FMCSR 399.*



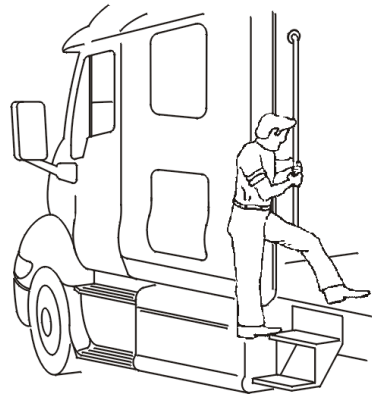
Hold handles as you step up



Three points of contact



Three points of contact as you reach the deck area



Three points of contact as you step to the deckplate

## PART 3: GETTING TO YOUR ENGINE

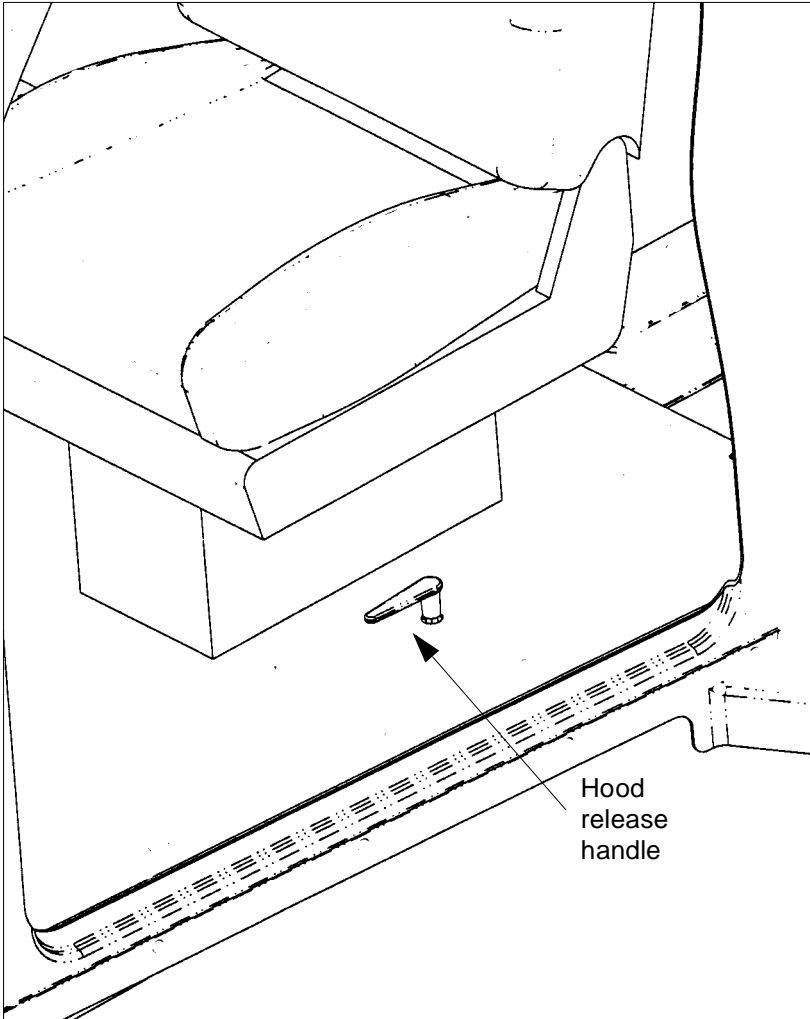
### Hood Tilt

Follow this procedure to tilt the hood.



**WARNING!** Before opening or closing the hood, be sure there are no people or objects in the way. A hood could hurt someone in the way of its opening or descent.

1. To open your hood, find the hood release handle on the cab floor beside the driver's seat.



2. Grasp the lever and turn it towards you. The hood will release and pop open to a neutral position, approximately 2" above the closed position.