

## Technical Tips

# Safety checking: the most important thing to do before you take your Full Classic<sup>®</sup> on the road

It will probably only take 15 minutes or so, but it is one of the most important things you should do before driving your Full Classic<sup>®</sup>. These checks are particularly important after the car has been in storage for several months (summer months for cars in Arizona and winter months for those in snow country.)

Here is a quick guide to a quick check.

1. Brake check: measure the stopping distance your car requires. At 20 mph, come to a quick stop. If you have hydraulic brakes they should stop the car within about 30 feet, mechanical brakes will take a little longer. Also check the hand brake to see that it holds the car.

2. Tires are important. Check them visually for cuts and wear. Use a Lincoln penny to check the tread. If you see the top of Lincoln's head the tires need replacement. Use a tire gauge to check for inflation.

3. Clean all glass in the car. Replace discolored glass. Take the stickers off of the rear window (if you have any on it). Check for cracks on all windows.

4. Rear view mirrors. You should have an interior mirror and at least one outside mirror. If your interior mirror is very small, try attaching a wide-angle mirror to it with a transparent fishing line. You can return the wide-angle mirror to the glove compartment if you are showing the car.

5. The horn: It should be loud and clear.

6. Windshield wipers: They should make a full sweep and have enough pressure to do the job.

7. Steering: There should not be excess play. If there is, it may mean worn front end parts or the need to adjust (or replace) the steering gear. Drive the car on a straight and level road and check for pull to either side. If there is, you may need wheel alignment.

8. Seat belts: If you haven't installed them, have it done. There is no deduction in CCCA events if done in a workmanlike manner. They are just as important in old cars as in modern ones.

9. Lights: Check the operation of the headlights (high and low beam), tail lights, stop lights and if so equipped, the turn indicators. If they are not working as they should, check for bulb burn out or fuses and finally wiring shorts. Check that the headlights are properly aimed. Wipe off dirt on front lights.

10. Lift the hood and check the exhaust system. Are all the connections tight including clamps and hangers. Look for smoke or noises that may indicate leaks.

