Preloaded Reefer Hook Checklist

Check the box before you check the box: set point, mode, fuel, alarms, seal, records

REEFER PRELOAD

Trailer # _____ Seal # _____ BOL # _____ BOL temp _____

Mode on BOL _____ Reefer fuel at hook _____ Hook time _____

Paperwork first

- ☐ Trailer number on the nose matches the load sheet and pickup number.
- ☐ BOL in hand. Temperature on the BOL (and on the rate con) written below.
- ☐ Mode the shipper wants (continuous or cycle) is on the BOL or confirmed with dispatch.
- ☐ Any pre-cool or temperature recorder instructions from the shipper noted.

Unit display

SET POINT = BOL?

- ☐ **Set point on the display matches the BOL exactly, including F or C. A 34 that should be -10 is a claim waiting to happen.**
- ☐ **Mode on the display matches the BOL: continuous or cycle (start-stop).**
- ☐ Return air and discharge air readings close to set point. Write both down.
- ☐ No active alarms. Any alarm code photographed and sent to dispatch before you hook.
- ☐ Unit running in the slot, not shut off. If it is in defrost, let the cycle finish and read the temps again.

Fuel and power

- ☐ Reefer fuel level read and written down (gauge or percent).
- ☐ Fuel covers the trip with margin. Run the reefer fuel estimator if it is close.
- ☐ Fuel cap on and tank not leaking. Battery and unit doors latched.

Seal and doors

- ☐ Seal intact. Number matches the BOL. Photographed.
- ☐ Doors closed and latched, door seals not torn.
- ☐ Pulp temperature policy confirmed with dispatch. A sealed load stays sealed unless the shipper or broker tells you otherwise in writing.

Records

- ☐ Download or photograph the unit's temperature history if the yard or broker asks for it.
- ☐ Pre-cool record or shipper note on file if the shipper required pre-cooling.
- ☐ Photo of the display (set point, return air, mode) at hook time and at delivery.

Temperature log (hook, every stop, delivery)

Time	Location	Set point	Return air	Discharge	Fuel	Alarms / notes

Alarm, wrong set point or temps far from set point? Do not fix it yourself and leave. Photograph the display, call dispatch, and get the shipper or broker's instruction in writing before you roll.

General information, not food-safety or legal advice. The shipper's written instructions, the broker's rate confirmation and the unit maker's manual come first.

Sources

21 CFR 1.908(b)(2) (checked 2026-11-02): https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-1/subpart-O/section-1.908

21 CFR 1.908(e)(2)-(3) (checked 2026-11-02): https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-1/subpart-O/section-1.908

21 CFR 1.908(a)(6) (checked 2026-11-02): https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-1/subpart-O/section-1.908