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Passenger Car Air Ride Diagnostic Checklist

A step-by-step workflow to diagnose air ride complaints accurately, reduce comebacks, and validate repairs with confidence.





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Passenger car air ride systems combine mechanical components with electronics, software, and vehicle network communication. Because symptoms like sagging, warning lights, or frequent compressor operation can have multiple causes, a structured approach can help technicians gather the right information, interpret scan data in context, and confirm key mechanical and electrical conditions before completing calibration and verification steps.

Use this checklist as a general guide and always follow the vehicle manufacturer's service information, procedures, and safety requirements.

Initial Assessment

- Confirm customer concern and operating conditions
- Check for suspension or warning messages
- Inspect for visible leaks or damage

Scan Tool Diagnostics

- Establish communication with suspension control module
- Retrieve and document fault codes
- Review freeze-frame or stored data

Live Data Evaluation

- Monitor ride height sensor values
- Observe compressor duty cycle
- Check system pressure behavior

Mechanical & Electrical Checks

- Inspect air springs, lines, and fittings
- Verify electrical power and ground
- Check sensor mounting and linkage

Calibration & Validation

- Perform required ride height calibration
- Clear fault codes
- Verify system operation over time

Questions? Contact ZF [pro]Tech:
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