



**DRIVE
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Pennsylvania

INSPECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Important Vehicle Inspection Information

Pennsylvania's Vehicle Inspection Program

WINTER 2022 ISSUE

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Ford Non-Communication Issues

Recently, there have been reports by inspection stations of OBD communication issues with 2020 and newer Ford vehicles including the Escape and F-150.

If you or your inspectors are experiencing this issue with Ford vehicles, be sure that the analyzer test procedure is being followed; especially during the KOEO/KOER portion of the inspection.

The analyzer will prompt the inspector to turn the vehicle on to verify the MIL status. Once that has been completed, the analyzer will then prompt the inspector to turn the vehicle off. OBD non-communication issues are likely to occur if the car is left running until the inspector is prompted to plug in the OBD module for the test. If the vehicle is turned on for too long, before the OBD portion of the test, the CAN bus becomes too busy and may not respond to requests from the analyzer.



To help prevent this, the inspector should follow the on-screen instructions from the analyzer and follow these tips:

1. After the KOER MIL check, turn the vehicle off and remove the key.
2. Wait 30 seconds before connecting the OBD module.
3. Then, reinsert the key and start the vehicle for the OBD test.

If you experience issues with testing specific vehicles, please reach out to the Station Operator Hotline at 888-265-5909 for assistance.



Emissions Testing for Out-of-State Vehicles

Renewing Out-of-State Registrations

Out-of-state vehicle owners may request a PA emissions inspection to renew their vehicle's registration in their home state. To do this, determine the county in which the vehicle is primarily used and proceed with the emissions inspection as normal.

Recording the Sticker Number

When recording the sticker number used for out-of-state vehicles, the inspector should record the home state abbreviation followed by eight 9's. For example, with a New Jersey (NJ) vehicle the sticker number would be NJ99999999.



Winter Vehicle Protection Tips for Customers

Harsh winter conditions can be especially damaging to vehicles. Here are some ideas on winter vehicle maintenance to keep your customers safe:

Check The Battery & Park In The Garage – Colder weather can impact the life of a vehicle's battery. Routine maintenance should include testing the battery to prevent drivers from being stranded. If possible, vehicles should be kept in a temperature-controlled environment, which will help lessen the chance of the battery dying.

Cold Engine Starts & Checking Fluids – Cold weather can thicken certain vehicles' fluids. So, it's important to check the car's manual for the Original Equipment Manufacturer's winter weather recommendations on warming up the vehicle, to help loosen the fluids, before driving. It's a good idea to check the levels of the oil, antifreeze, power steering, brake, and transmission fluids while a vehicle is in the shop to make sure there are no leaks.

Wash Off Road Salt – The road salt that is used to treat winter roadways is corrosive to the metal portions of vehicles. Regularly washing built up salt and chemicals on vehicles will help protect the undercarriage, brakes, and wheel wells from damage.

Check Tire Pressure Often – Driving with underinflated tires can be dangerous during inclement weather. A vehicle's tire pressure often loses one pound per square inch (PSI) for every 10 degrees of temperature drop. So, it's important to let customers know that they should check their tire pressure often throughout the winter season.

A bad spark plug, ignition component or clogged filter may leave customers stranded in life-threatening weather as the vehicle won't start. Complimentary checks of these components prior to inclement weather could make a difference.

Station Closing Due to Weather Damage?

Inclement winter weather can strike at any time. In some cases, storm- or other weather-related damage may result in a needing to close your inspection station. If you should need to close your station temporarily or modify the hours of operation for any reason, your station's QAO or PennDOT must be notified right away.

Adding/Deleting Technicians to an Analyzer

How To Delete An Inspector From An Emissions Analyzer

To delete Inspector(s) from your emission analyzer, you must send the emission technician list to the Pennsylvania Emissions Team on form MV-516 and clearly note which inspector(s) are to be removed.

The MV-516 form can be printed from the emission analyzer and should be posted on the inspection station wall.

The request to delete an Inspector can be faxed or emailed to:

- Fax Number: (717) 963-8434
- Email Address: documents@PaStationHotline.com



How To Add An Inspector To An Emissions Analyzer

If you need to add inspector(s) to your emission analyzer, you must submit your request, along with the documents listed below to the Pennsylvania Emissions Team, by fax or email:

- A cover sheet with the request to add an Inspector clearly indicating:
 - ▶ Station name
 - ▶ Station phone number
 - ▶ Station contact name
 - ▶ Name of Inspector(s) to be added
- A photocopy of the Certified Emission Inspector's license for each inspector being added.
- A photocopy of the Certified Emission Inspector's driver's license for each inspector being added.
- A photocopy of the updated Emission Technician list of MV-516 that lists all certified Inspector(s).
- Both the Certified Emission Inspector's and driver's licenses must be valid.

The request to add Inspector(s) can be faxed or emailed to:

- Fax Number: (717) 963-8434
- Email Address: documents@PaStationHotline.com

After your request has been submitted, it will take up to 24 hours to process. To verify that the change has been made, perform a Data File Refresh (DFR) on your analyzer. This will update the list of inspectors for the analyzer.

Call the station hotline only if the analyzer has not been updated within a business day for the complete inspection.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are several Frequently Asked Questions that are answered by the Station Operator Hotline. If you have a question that is not answered here, please call 888-265-5909 for assistance.

New Registration Title Numbers for Emissions Inspections

If there is no title number for new registrations/pink slips, inspectors shall input all 9s into their analyzers when performing emissions inspections.

What To Do With Old Or Expired Stickers

There has been some confusion as to what to do with old or expired inspection stickers. All stickers should be properly stored in a locked location and retained for your next station inspection and compliance audit. Your station may incur a violation, if unused Emissions or Safety stickers are not available for review when the sticker reconciliation is done by your station QAO. Any expired stickers shall be kept and be stored safely under lock and key. After the station audit, the QAO will dispose of these stickers.

Electronic MV-431 Records Not Completed Properly

If you use E-Safety, MVIRs, or Compuspections, be sure that you are completing the records properly.

When completing an electronic MV-431, inspectors are required to still list N, R, and A, along with total costs that show repairs being done. Some station inspectors are failing to record the repairs and costs, which may result in a recordkeeping violation. It is imperative that stations record failed inspections or vehicles that have had parts repaired/fixed as a part of the safety inspection.

