



**DRIVE
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Pennsylvania

INSPECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Important Vehicle Inspection Information

Pennsylvania's Vehicle Inspection Program

SUMMER 2021 ISSUE

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMER 2021 ISSUE

INSPECTIONS NEWSLETTER



Changes To Inspection Sticker Fees

On July 1, 2021, the fee for the Annual Safety Inspection Stickers changed from \$8.00 to \$9.00. The fee for the Semiannual Inspection Stickers changed from \$6.00 to \$7.00. Official Inspection Stations may charge \$2.00, in addition to the cost of the sticker, at the time of the windshield replacement. Stations are not charged for Emission Stickers. Updated fee schedule signs, reflecting these fee changes, should have been posted by July 1, 2021.



The MV-436A Inspection Sticker and Insert Order Form has been updated to reflect the fee changes and is available on the Department's website.

When ordering online, the fee for stickers is calculated automatically. Online orders allow for easy access to track the progress of sticker processing and shipment.

If mailing in a sticker order, please ensure the MV-436A is completed properly, and includes the authorized signature, operator number, and \$5 shipping/handling fee. Please allow 14 business days for delivery of your inspection stickers before calling to check on your order status. We understand timely fulfillment of orders is of the utmost importance.

You can download Form MV-436A at:

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/public/dvspubsforms/BMV/BMV%20Forms/MV-436A.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact the Vehicle Inspection Division at (717) 787-2895.

Attention Certified Safety & Emissions Inspectors

NEW INSPECTOR ID NUMBERS

As of February 1, 2021, both Emissions analyzers and the e-SAFETY system now require that you use your new PennDOT Inspector ID card number when logging in. This ID number can be used to log in to both Emissions analyzers and the e-SAFETY system.

How can I tell if I have the right ID card number?

If your ID card starts with the number 9, then you have the correct version.

How can I get a new ID card?

Inspectors who have not yet received a new-style ID card (for one or both of their license types) will need to visit the PA training portal website at www.patrainportal.com to order their new card(s). For a limited time, new ID card(s) will be available at no cost. New cards will arrive within three weeks of order date.

**Have Questions? Contact
the Inspection Station
Hotline at (888) 265-5909**



Issuing Waivers For OBD-I/M Fails

Vehicles that fail the OBD-I/M check should be retested after the repair, once the vehicle's readiness requirements are met. Vehicles that fail the gas cap test should be retested after repair.

Vehicle owners who bring their vehicle back within 30 calendar days of the initial Emissions inspection can receive one free retest. Retests that are done after the 30-day period; are performed after the free retest; or are a "retest" on a vehicle whose initial inspection was completed at another station should only be performed upon payment of the required fee.

Issuance of a Waiver

Only certified repair technicians with a valid driver's license are authorized to process requests for and issue waivers. An inspector can electronically issue a certificate of Emissions inspection with an indicator to show that the vehicle has received a waiver if:

1. The vehicle has failed the initial Emissions inspection; qualifying repairs have been

completed; repairs have been verified by the certified repair technician; and the vehicle has failed the retest.

2. Emission control devices that were original equipment are installed. Vehicles with Emission devices that are obsolete and cannot be obtained through the original equipment manufacturer, aftermarket manufacturers or other suppliers of used parts are exempt from this.
3. The amount of money spent on qualifying repairs is no less than \$150 and includes: charges for electronic diagnostic inspection, parts costs and labor costs. Labor costs must be related to the determining the cause of the test failure, and the labor must have been completed by a certified repair technician.

Repairs may be completed by someone other than a certified repair technician, but then the cost of labor may not be applied toward the waiver limit.

The cost of parts for the repair or replacement for the following Emission control components may be applied: oxygen sensor; catalytic converter; thermal reactor; EGR valve; fuel filler or gas cap; evaporative canister; PCV valve; air pump; distributor; ignition wires; coil; spark plugs; and power train management system. The cost of hoses, gaskets, belts, clamps, brackets or other accessories directly associated with these components may also be applied to the waiver limit.

These repairs must have been performed no more than 60 days prior to the initial Emission inspection test.

Expenses That May NOT Be Applied Toward a Waiver

Expenses applied toward the waiver may not include the repair of Emission control devices that are:

- Found to be tampered with
- Rendered inoperative
- Rendered inaccessible
- Not installed

Costs recoverable under an Emissions warranty, insurance policy or prepaid maintenance agreement may also not be applied. These recoverable cost repairs should be used before necessary repair costs can be applied toward the waiver cost limitations. The operator of a vehicle within the statutory age and mileage coverage under section 207(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.A. § 7525(b)) needs to present a written denial of warranty coverage from the manufacturer or authorized dealer for this provision to be waived.

Charges also exclude the following:

- The fee for Emission inspection
- Charges for giving a written estimate of needed repairs
- Charges for checking for the presence of Emission control devices

The fee for an electronic diagnostic inspection may be included.

Responsibilities Of Stations Issuing Waivers

The vehicle owner or driver should present the original repair bills or receipts for parts to the inspection station to demonstrate compliance with the qualifying dollar amount. It is the certified repair technician's responsibility to verify that documentation presented by the vehicle owner is complete, prior to the issuance of a waiver certificate. The station must retain a copy of these bills for future auditing purposes. The bills should include:

- Name, address and telephone number of the repair facility
- Description of the repairs that were performed
- Itemization of the labor cost and/or parts costs for each repair
- Statements on the written estimate regarding the general problem, the necessary major parts replacement items and the total necessary repair and labor costs, which would exceed the total cost limitations

Upon completion of waiver requirements, and a visual check to determine that repairs were made, a certificate of Emissions inspection, with a waiver indicator, can be placed on the vehicle.

Waiver Auditing

The electronic waiver process is verified by the PA Drive Clean Vehicle Inspection Information Database at the time the certified repair technician enters the waiver documentation in the Emissions analyzer. A waiver insert, as supplied by the Department, shall be placed on each Emissions certificate of inspection issued through the waiver process. The certificate of waiver form may be collected, or the results of the electronic waiver process will be reviewed by the Department or its designee on an unannounced periodic basis.

Required Station Signage

The proper station signage is important for both stations and consumers.

EMISSIONS STATIONS

Interior Signage In Public View Must Include:

1. A current list of certified Emission inspectors
2. Replacement Sticker Fees shall include, the Program Management Fee (PMF), the fees for exemptions (including labor) and the fee for an inspection. Program Management Fee + \$2 labor + tax for Emissions
3. A notice that the inspection fee is the same whether the vehicle passes or fails
4. A notice that the fee for inspection includes the cost of labor for the inspection, but not the cost of parts, repairs and adjustments
5. A notice that no additional charge will be made by the inspecting station for one necessary reinspection within 30 days of the original inspection
6. Information regarding whether lesser fees are charged to a vehicle owner who is 65 years old or older
7. Information regarding whether the Emissions inspection station is able to deliver waivers
8. The telephone numbers of the Customer Hotline (800-265-0921) and Station Hotline (888-265-5909)

The sign must list the fees in the order provided in the sample found in Appendix A as Exhibit B in the Section 177.404 regulations and consist of letters and numbers at least 1 inch in height.

SAFETY STATIONS

Interior Signage In Public View Must Include:

1. A current list of certified inspection mechanics
2. A certificate of appointment for each type of station approved for the location
3. The interior signage in public view must include the fee for the certificate of inspection, separate from the fee for inspection
4. Replacement Sticker Fees shall include, the cost of the sticker + \$2 labor + tax.
5. A notice that the fee for inspection shall be the same whether the vehicle passes or fails
6. A notice that the fee for inspection shall include the cost of labor for the inspection, including pulling wheels, but it shall not include the cost of parts, repairs or adjustments
7. The fee for different types of vehicles, to the extent that the fee varies among vehicles



AN APPROVED OFFICIAL INSPECTION STATION SIGN WITH APPROPRIATE SAFETY AND/OR EMISSIONS STATION NUMBER PLATE MUST BE DISPLAYED OUTSIDE OF THE GARAGE AND BE CLEARLY VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

EXTERIOR SIGNAGE – EMISSIONS & SAFETY

An approved, official inspection station sign with appropriate Safety and/or Emissions station number plate must be displayed outside of the garage and be clearly visible to the public. These signs must meet all design, size, lettering and other requirements stated in the regulations.

PLEASE NOTE: Fleet and Commonwealth stations are exempt from these interior and exterior signage requirements.

Illegible Registration Plates

A registration plate is deemed illegible when one or more numbers or letters cannot be recognized from 50 feet or if the registration plate shows any blistering, peeling, discoloration or loss of reflectivity. When a registration plate becomes illegible, PennDOT has two options for replacing it.

1. When an authorized representative of PennDOT or law enforcement determines that a registration plate is illegible, the law allows reissuing a registration plate, upon request of a vehicle owner.

To apply for a free standard registration plate, the vehicle owner can visit any Pennsylvania inspection station for verification that their registration plate is illegible and receive a completed Form MV-46, "Authorization to Replace Registration Plate." Owners can also have a law enforcement official verify the need for a replacement registration plate on Form MV-44, "Application for Duplicate Registration Card, Replacement of Registration Plate, or Weight Class Sticker." The vehicle owner is then responsible for signing and returning either Form MV-46 or Form MV-44 to PennDOT in order to receive a replacement registration plate, free of charge.

2. The law also allows PennDOT to order a general registration plate reissuance. Standard-issue passenger

registration plates that start with the tag configuration D, E or F, and standard-issue truck registration plates that start with the tag configuration Y are the oldest on the road and need to be replaced. So, any registration plate that begins with these letters will get a new plate, if it is transferred to a different vehicle.



A vehicle cannot fail inspection for having an illegible registration plate. However, a vehicle will fail inspection if the registration plate is hanging loosely; the registration plate is not in agreement with the numbers on the registration card; the registration plate is obscured; or the registration plate lamp, if originally equipped, does not illuminate the registration plate.

What You Need To Know: Broken Odometers

If a customer brings a vehicle in for inspection and it has a broken odometer, the vehicle CAN be Emissions tested. The vehicle will NOT be eligible for a mileage exemption, because there is no way to prove mileage with a broken odometer. However, a vehicle with a broken odometer will NOT pass a Safety inspection unless the vehicle is at least 25 years old or greater than 17,000 pounds registered gross weight.

Stations recording mileage for Emissions testing on a vehicle with a broken odometer should document the mileage as follows:

- For digital odometers, enter all zeros with the last digit being a 1. Example: 000,001.
- For analog odometers, enter the mileage displayed at the time of the inspection and note on the VIR that the odometer is non-functional.

Nothing in the inspection regulations prevents service, repair or replacement of an odometer, if the mileage indicated remains the same. When the repair or replacement of the odometer impacts the registered mileage, the odometer should be adjusted to read zero. When this is done, a notice in writing should be attached to the left door frame

of the vehicle by the owner or their agent specifying the mileage prior to the repair or replacement of the odometer and the date of repair or replacement.



Regulations regarding vehicle odometers can be found below:

PASSENGER CARS, LIGHT TRUCKS & MOTORCYCLES

175.74 A vehicle in these categories shall have an operating odometer calibrated to indicate total miles or kilometers driven, except vehicles or motorcycles that are at least 25 years old.

MEDIUM & HEAVY TRUCKS, BUSES & SCHOOL BUSES

175.105 A vehicle specified under this subchapter shall have an operating odometer calibrated to indicate total miles or kilometers driven, except a motor vehicle at least 25 years old or a vehicle over 17,000 pounds registered gross weight.



Voided/Damaged Stickers

Anytime a sticker is in an unusable condition or damaged while being issued to a vehicle, the sticker should be entered as a voided/damaged sticker.

Examples in which you would enter a sticker as voided/damaged:

- The inspector filled out a sticker for the wrong vehicle
- The inspector filled out a sticker for a vehicle that does not need to be inspected (sticker still current, Non-emission County registered, etc.)
- Sticker was damaged while being affixed to the windshield of vehicle being inspected

Recording A Voided/Damaged Sticker In The PAS Analyzer

1. Using the Emissions analyzer, from the Main Menu, select option #1 Vehicle Emissions Inspection Menu
2. Select #6 Enter Replacement/Missing/Waiver/Exemption/Exception
3. Enter your inspector license number (the 9-digit number on your ID card) and password
4. The Sticker Menu will show; select #5 Record a Sticker Which Is Voided or Damaged
5. Enter the voided/damaged sticker number
6. The next screen will ask you if you want to "Record Sticker Issuance?" Select Yes
7. On the Sticker Issuance Report screen, click the Print button
8. At the bottom, sign the printed report
9. Cut the voided/damaged sticker in such a way that the only thing showing is the sticker's serial number

10. Staple or affix in some way the cut sticker to the report just signed
11. Store the report and affixed sticker with your station's audit paperwork

Recording A Voided/Damaged Sticker In The e-SAFETY Program

1. Log in to your e-SAFETY program
2. In the top navigation bar, click Safety Stickers
3. Select Voided-Damaged/Stolen/Missing Sticker
4. Enter the sticker information
5. Click the Voided/Damaged radial button
6. At the bottom of the screen, you'll notice in red letters, "Sticker updated successfully – Saved successfully"
7. Cut the voided/damaged sticker in such a way that the only thing showing is the sticker's serial number
8. Store the sticker with your station's audit paperwork

Recording A Voided/Damaged Sticker In The MV431 Book

1. In the next blank entry, fill in the date box with the date you're voiding the sticker
2. In the next two block sections, in large capital letters, write "VOID"
3. Fill in the sticker number box
4. Cut the voided/damaged sticker in such a way that the only thing showing is the sticker's serial number
5. Staple or affix in some way the cut sticker to the sheet near the sticker entry



Recreational Vehicles & Motorcycles

The warmer weather means more people will be bringing their recreational vehicles and motorcycles in for inspection before heading out on the road.

Recreational Vehicles Inspection Requirements

Safety inspections for recreational trailers require that the following items be checked: suspension components, braking systems, tires and wheels, lighting and electrical systems, glazing the body and chassis.

For the complete inspection procedure for recreational, semi and utility trailers, please reference Section 175.130 of Subchapter G of the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations.

http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BMV/BMV%20Manuals/Pub_45%20Inspections%20Regulations/SubchapterG.pdf

Motorcycle Inspection Requirements

Inspection of motorcycles includes verifying that the suspension, steering, braking systems, tires and wheels, electrical systems, mirrors and other components are in good working order.

For the complete inspection procedure for motorcycles, please reference Section 175.160 of Subchapter H of the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations.

http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BMV/BMV%20Manuals/Pub_45%20Inspections%20Regulations/SubchapterH.pdf

Classic or Collectible Vehicles

With the warmer weather, inspection stations will be seeing more classic and collectible vehicles. Keep in mind that vehicles registered as a classic or collectible vehicle in the 42 Non-IM counties do not require the Visual Anti-Tamper (VAT) portion of the safety inspection test.

When inspecting these vehicles the user should select N/A for all VAT results and enter a comment that the vehicle was registered as a classic or collectible. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the e-SAFETY program, please contact the Station Operator Hotline at 1-888-265-5909.

HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact the Inspection Station Operator Hotline at **888-265-5909**

We're rolling out a new, user-friendly e-SAFETY site with the following features and benefits:

- Compatible for use with mobile devices (tablets or iPads)
- Ability to use the camera from a mobile device to scan registrations
- Enhanced sticker inventory management to verify stickers received from PennDOT
- Ability to add photos to pass/fail inspections to verify how the vehicle was presented during inspection
- Enhanced inspection data entry validation, to reduce data entry errors

