



# DRIVE CLEAN Pennsylvania

## INSPECTIONS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019 ISSUE

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# IM Drive Clean Deskmats Reference Guide



**On-Board Diagnostics (OBD)**  
 Required equipment for cars, vans, SUVs, and light trucks manufactured after 1996.  
 Continuously monitors the vehicle emission control systems, as well as other vehicle information, to ensure that they are functioning properly.

**OBD Test Results**  
 During an emissions inspection process, a reading will be collected for each on-board diagnostic trouble code (DTC) stored in the vehicle's memory. This information is used to determine if the vehicle's emission control systems are functioning properly.

**Common Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTCs) and Their Causes**  
 A diagram of a car with various components labeled: Air Filter, Fuel Injector, Spark Plug, Oxygen Sensor, Mass Air Flow Sensor, Throttle Body, and Coolant Temperature Sensor.

**Environmental Benefits of Pennsylvania Drive Clean**

CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and VOC emissions are reduced, resulting in cleaner air and a healthier environment. Pennsylvania's vehicle emissions from the millions of vehicles in the state contribute about one-third of the Commonwealth's air pollution problem.

**PA Drive Clean**  
 The purpose of Pennsylvania's Drive Clean program is to ensure that vehicles on the road are designed to, in order to reduce the emissions of air-polluting pollutants. All cars and some pickups, but only recreational cars and vans, are required to pass an emissions test. The test is done at the time of registration and includes a visual inspection of the vehicle's engine, emission control system, and other key components.

**PA Drive Clean Emissions Reductions**  
 As a result of the program, there has been a significant decline in air-polluting emissions. The emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) have been reduced by 98%, and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions by 81%. These pollution reductions are an excellent example of how the program has helped to improve air quality and reduce emissions.

**Pennsylvania Annual Highway Vehicle Emissions**  
 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Parsons recently mailed each inspection station a Drive Clean deskmats reference guide. The deskmats is a two-sided reference tool that will help your customers understand the benefits of the Pennsylvania Drive Clean program and answer common questions about the OBD inspection process.

The deskmats has been designed to be prominently displayed at your service counter or in a customer waiting area, where

it can be easily accessed by your customers. The heavy-duty lamination will protect against spills and dirt and allow the deskmats to be cleaned easily.

One side provides basic information about a vehicle's OBD system, along with diagnostic trouble codes and the most common vehicle inspection issues. This reference tool can be used as a helpful visual aid any time your customer has a question about the OBD inspection.

The other side of the deskmats explains the environmental benefits of Pennsylvania's Drive Clean program. Consumers can learn how vehicle and other types of emissions contribute to air pollution. The graph shows how the Pennsylvania Drive Clean program has helped to improve air quality and reduced emissions.



# Emissions Stations Final Equipment Transition Date Has Passed

PennDOT designated November 1, 2019 as the final transition date for all active emissions inspection stations to be running OBD and Visual inspection equipment meeting the new specifications. The majority of Emissions stations have new equipment installed and activated, meeting the new specifications requirement.

All three participating vendors are approved and providing options for new equipment solutions.

Emissions inspection stations who have not upgraded their equipment and want to continue offering OBD and Visual inspections to customers should consider upgrading their equipment that meets the new OBD/Visual specifications.

Emissions inspection stations that have not yet updated to OBD and Visual inspection equipment meeting the new specifications will no longer be permitted to perform OBD or Visual emissions inspections.

Please call the Inspection Station Operator hotline at 1-888-265-5909 if you have any additional questions.

# New Inspector ID Card Program



## NEW PENNDOT INSPECTOR ID NUMBERS & ID CARDS



PennDOT has initiated a new ID number and ID card program.

- Any inspector who has not already received a new-style ID card(s) displaying their new ID number will have the opportunity to acquire a new ID card(s) at no cost.
- This program applies to both Safety & Emissions Inspector ID cards.
- This one-time opportunity to get a new ID card(s) at no cost will only be available for a limited time.

## WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

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 [ptrainingportal.com](http://ptrainingportal.com) to order their new card(s).

## HOW TO CHECK NEW ID CARD AVAILABILITY STATUS

**STEP 1:** If you already have an account, login to the training portal with your existing user ID and Password. If you don't have an account, click on "Sign-Up" to setup a new account.

**STEP 2:** Once logged in, click on the plus sign beside "New ID Card" to see if there is a new ID card(s) available.

**STEP 3:** If you have already received a new Safety and/or Emissions ID card, the date(s) produced will be displayed. If there are card(s) available, continue to step 4.

**STEP 4:** If there are cards available, click on the "order" button and follow the instructions to produce the card(s) and confirm/change the delivery address.

New cards will arrive within 3 weeks of order date.



## Shop Winterization Tips



Now is a great time to prepare your shop to handle the coming cold weather. Consider these tips when weatherizing your shop for the winter season:

### SEAL CRACKS

Cracks, inside and out, have the potential to let cold air in, making working conditions unfavorable. Pests may also take up residence in your shop through open cracks. Be sure to seal any you find with caulk or expanding foam.

### ALLOW FOR VENTILATION

With a weatherized shop and bay doors closed to the cold, proper ventilation is important. Remember to connect proper exhaust ventilation to prevent breathing in harmful fumes.

### CHECK THE GARAGE DOOR

The cold can wreak havoc on your shop doors. If your garage doors are operated electronically, make sure all moving metal parts are well lubricated. Also check the screws, springs and other metal parts for any damages, as the cold can expand and contract the metal.

With the cold comes snow and ice. Be sure to look daily for any areas of ice buildup or that the door hasn't frozen to the ground. Keep the area under and around the door clear of snow, ice, and standing water.

### CREATE A DROP ZONE

Garage floors can become slippery. To prevent water from being tracked throughout the garage, create a zone near the door of your shop for you or your employees to place wet items, such as boots, jackets, etc.

### USE A SQUEEGEE

Keep a squeegee for when the floors do inevitably get wet. If you have the time, you can make your own squeegee by affixing pipe insulation with some zip ties to the back of a garden rake.

### PREVENTING PUDDLES

Doing all you can to keep your garage floors dry helps prevent injuries. Clean cars off before you drive them into the garage, lay mats down where people walk frequently, and if water tends to puddle at the entrance to your garage, you can use expanding foam to create a barrier and help keep water out. It should last the winter season, is waterproof, you can drive over it with no problem, and scrapes off easily when water is no longer an issue.

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

# S Frequently Asked Questions

## RUSTED/PITTED BRAKE ROTORS

The presence of rust or pitting on brake rotors, by itself, does not constitute a failure for the purpose of inspection. Inspectors should determine if rust is a temporary condition (surface rust) which sometimes results from the vehicle being parked for a period of time. In order to reject a vehicle for rusted/pitted rotors, the inspector must determine that the rust/pitting is causing diminished braking performance that prevents the vehicle from stopping within prescribed distances. If the rotors are above the minimum thickness and there is no rejectable scoring, the inspector may wish to note the rust/pitting on the customer's work order.

# Visited the e-Safety Site Lately? New Changes



## ENHANCED COMPATIBILITY

The e-Safety web site, [www.penndotesafety.pa.gov](http://www.penndotesafety.pa.gov), has been updated to now work seamlessly with Chrome, FireFox and Internet Explorer.

## HOW TO VIDEOS

Thinking about joining or new to e-Safety? The site has videos that instruct users, step-by-step, through basic e-Safety tasks, such as Enrolling, ACH Authorization, and Adding a New User. You can find these at the bottom left of the screen under How to Videos.

## NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

Looking for something specific you read in a past newsletter but can't seem to find your print copy? Visit the e-Safety page. All program newsletters can be found in the bottom left-hand of the screen, including the most recent issue.

## VEHICLE SEARCH

The Vehicle Search, an exciting new feature, is free for public use and can be found under the login box. You simply enter a VIN number and it'll search for VIN decodes and recalls, as well as all information about that specific vehicle. For example, a search on an OBD car will show things like the gas cap adapter info, what monitors it has, if it has an e-VIN, where the DLC connector can be located (with possible images of where to find the DLC connector), and more.

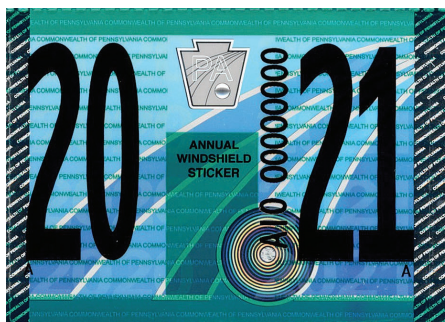
Information on recalls submitted with NHTSA will also appear with details under the recall notices at the bottom of the screen. Although not required, Inspectors can notify customers of open recalls on their vehicles to provide good customer service.



## Replacement Stickers



Inspectors can put new inspection stickers on a vehicle for the same time period as the replaced stickers without completing a new inspection if it's within five days of having the windshield replaced AND the customer provides the portion of the windshield containing the previous stickers. Stations are required per regulations to keep the portion of the windshield with the stickers that are to be replaced for auditing purposes by their QAO. Stations shall not destroy or discard any portions of windshields unless directed to by their QAO.



### A REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION MAY NOT BE ISSUED IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

1. Acceptable proof of financial responsibility is not provided, i.e.:
  - a. A valid insurance card
  - b. The declaration page of a valid insurance policy
  - c. A valid self-insurance identification card
  - d. A valid binder of insurance issued by an insurance company licensed to sell motor vehicle liability insurance in this Commonwealth
  - e. A valid insurance policy issued by an insurance company licensed to sell motor vehicle liability insurance in this Commonwealth

2. The vehicle is in an obviously unsafe operating condition

Remember, a fee of no more than \$2 plus the fee paid to the Department of Transportation for the sticker may be charged for exchanging the inspection sticker.

### REPLACING INSPECTION STICKERS

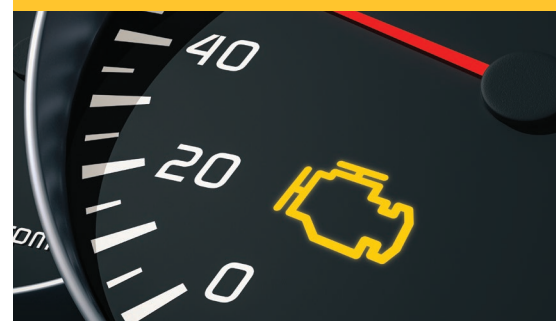
1. Record all information from the old inspection stickers on the MV-431 form, or use the appropriate replacement sticker function menu to record replacements if you're conducting inspections electronically.
2. Record the replacement sticker info on the same MV-431 form and mark "replacement sticker issued."

Write "Replacement" on the back of the replacement stickers (best to use a fine tip, black Sharpie). Station shall record all information from previous inspection stickers on the new stickers. Stations should note old mileage on replacement stickers and NOT the vehicles current mileage.



## NEW! Password Info

For enhanced security purposes, inspectors can now create and/or change their password on any of the new analyzers. Any Emissions Inspector looking to change their password, should speak with their station manager or PAS Unit Equipment Manufacturer for further support.



## Malfunction Indicator Light Bulb Conditions



It's important for certified emissions inspectors to pay close attention to questions regarding the Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL) bulb during testing. Incorrect answers may result in a car passing that should have failed. Physically check the MIL bulb status in correlation with the questions. Bulbs that are not operating properly can be dangerous and, ultimately, costly for customers. A faulty MIL bulb could result in critical issues going unnoticed until it's too late.

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# Important Vehicle Inspection Information

## Pennsylvania's Vehicle Inspection Program Inspections Newsletter – In This Issue

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