



INSPECTIONS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

Vehicle Registration License Plate Sticker Eliminated

Effective 12/31/16, PennDOT will no longer issue vehicle registration stickers. Elimination of registration stickers will result in a significant cost savings for taxpayers. The elimination of the registration sticker was evaluated as part of a Penn State research study, which concluded that eliminating the registration sticker has no impact on vehicle registration compliance.

The elimination of the registration sticker will realize a cost savings to taxpayers of \$1.1 million per year; it is estimated an additional \$2 million will be saved in mailing costs.

Customers are still required to maintain current vehicle registration, and must present a registration card to law enforcement when asked. A valid registration card is also still required when having a safety and/or emissions inspection completed.

Law enforcement agencies have electronic access to PennDOT's database from their patrol vehicles, which allows them to verify if a vehicle registration is valid. In addition, many use license plate reader technology to efficiently validate registrations.



Where & How to Get Vehicle Inspection Regulation Manuals

Regulation manuals are available for sale exclusively through PennDOT's Sales Store. The Vehicle Inspection Division no longer fills orders for these manuals.

Manuals available include:

The "Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations" Manual, (Pub. 45)
The "Emissions Inspection Program Regulations" Manual, (Pub. 763)



Please continue to allow yourself at least 30 days for processing when placing your orders.

Follow the link below to access the current Sales Store price list and order form:

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/public/PubsForms/Publications/PUB%2012.pdf>

For further information, or assistance in preparing your order, you may call the store directly at 717-787-6746. Alternatively, you may choose to download these manuals in electronic format at the links below.

Link to "Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations" manual:

http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BMV/BMV%20Manuals/Pub_45%20Inspections%20Regulations/PUB-45.pdf

Link to "Emission Inspection Program Regulations" manual:

http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BMV/BMV%20Publications/pub_763.pdf

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

Inspector Recertification



All Safety and Emissions inspectors will be mailed a recertification reminder notice at least 180-days prior to expiration of their Safety or Emissions certification. As of September 1, 2016, there are no extensions allowed to renew your license past your expiration date.

If you do not complete the entire Safety or Emissions recertification process before your current inspector certification expires, you will no longer be eligible to participate in recertification and will be required to retake the original certification course.

SAFETY

PennDOT's vehicle safety inspector recertification has changed. Per 67 Pa. Code §175.28, "A mechanic shall be certified for no more than 5-years. Mechanics may renew their mechanic certification by passing the required examination within 180-days of their expiration date. The new recertification will be good for five years.

Safety recertification training and exams are conducted entirely online. Reminder notices will direct inspectors to a website where they can register for recertification and choose from training with exam, or exam only options. Training may be purchased and exams may be taken as early as 180-days before expiration. In order to successfully recertify, exams must be completed and submitted online, with a passing result of at least 80%, no later than 11:59 pm on the date of expiration.

EMISSIONS

To renew your Emissions license, you must successfully complete an Emissions Inspector Recertification course and exam before your current license expires. Recertification course and exams may be taken as early as 180-days before expiration. Upon successful completion of the recertification course and exam, inspectors will receive a renewed Emissions Inspector Certification ID, which is valid for two (2) years.

Recertification classes and testing are available at participating vocational schools and community colleges, as well as some inspection industry associations. For a list of approved training and testing facilities, please visit the Pennsylvania Drive Clean website at <http://www.drivecleanPA.state.pa.us>, or call PennDOT's Vehicle Inspection Division at (717) 787-2895.

For inspectors located in the Northern Region (visual/gas cap license only), recertification training materials are available online at www.PAIMtraining.com. After completing the training, Northern Region inspectors will need to contact a local school to schedule a proctored exam.

If an inspector has not yet received test results, you can contact the school where you took the exam. Once the test results have been submitted and recorded, your renewed license should be processed and mailed within 10-days of receipt from the school. If you have not received your license, contact the call center to check on the status of your license.

UNCERTIFIED INSPECTORS



Regulations require that every inspection shall be performed by a certified inspection mechanic. At no time should a station allow or encourage an uncertified mechanic to perform Emissions or Safety inspections on vehicles, as this practice will result in suspensions and/or fines for both the station and the mechanic. On-the-job training of an uncertified mechanic requires the trainee to merely observe the inspection being performed by a certified mechanic who is responsible for the complete inspection.

E Emissions

S Safety



SHOP SAFETY TIPS

- Be aware of Bee, Wasp & Hornet Nests in vehicles. Especially in hidden areas and under door handles.
- Spring weather will lead very quickly to new nests being built, and awakening of dormant hives.





Inspection Station Operator Hotline

Available to answer your questions Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m. Our support representatives have compiled answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

888-265-5909

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Broken Odometers

Stations should be advised that a vehicle with a broken odometer will not pass a safety inspection, unless the vehicle is at least 25 years old, or greater than 17k registered gross weight.

If a customer brings a vehicle in for inspection and it has a broken odometer, the vehicle CAN be emissions tested. However, these vehicles will NOT be eligible for a mileage exemption because there is no way to prove mileage with a broken odometer.

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



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 a complete list of the inspection criteria 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 a complete list of the inspection criteria for motorcycles, please reference Section 175.130 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.

PENNSYLVANIA EMISSIONS INSPECTION PROGRAM

OBD and VISUAL Emissions Equipment Specification Changes



PennDOT has updated the specifications for OBD equipment for authorized Emissions Inspection Stations. The changes will require stations that would like to continue as an official Emissions Inspection Station, conducting OBD and Visual inspections, to purchase new equipment.

Details and requirements have been provided to all interested equipment manufacturers, so that they can develop new equipment solutions (hardware and software) that comply with the specifications. At this point, the equipment manufacturers are testing their new systems and will be submitting them for software verification testing.

Any equipment solutions that successfully pass the initial certification process will then be approved for beta testing in the field. Each equipment manufacturer is responsible for selecting their beta test sites. If you are interested in participating, please contact the equipment manufacturers directly.

Once the beta testing period has been completed, PennDOT will determine which equipment manufacturers have passed the certification process and are authorized to participate in the program. You will be notified as to which equipment solutions have successfully passed the certification process. At that time, you can review the offerings from all the certified Equipment Manufacturers and decide what to purchase.

We will be sharing more information, as it becomes available through newsletters, PennDOT Bulletins, email blasts, mailings to stations, analyzer messages, and industry publications.

Stay Informed - be sure to check www.padrivecleanportal.com for updates.

Elimination of Semiannual Inspections of Heavy Trucks

PennDOT released a bulletin concerning the elimination of semiannual inspections of heavy trucks, effective February 02, 2017.



QUESTION: Why are semiannual inspections of motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs. being eliminated?

ANSWER: Act 165, which became law on November 04, 2016, amends the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Title 75 section 4702(B) (7), to no longer require a semiannual safety inspection for motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs. This change is effective February 02, 2017.

QUESTION: Are semiannual inspections eliminated for all vehicles?

ANSWER: No, The following are still required to be inspected semiannually: School buses; vehicles which are under contract with or owned by a school district or a private or parochial school, including vehicles having chartered group and party rights under the Public Utility Commission and used to transport school students; passenger vans used to transport persons for hire or owned by a commercial enterprise and used for

continued on back...

Elimination of Semiannual Inspections of Heavy Trucks continued...

the transportation of employees to or from their place of employment; and mass transit vehicles other than farm vehicles for which a biennial certificate of exemption has been issued are still required to be inspected semiannually.

QUESTION: Can I inspect motor carrier vehicles at my station since they are no longer required to be inspected semiannually?

ANSWER: An official inspection station is ONLY authorized to inspect the types of vehicles designated on the station's certificate of appointment (MV-427). Any changes on the types of vehicles inspected would need to be approved by PennDOT, and when approved, a new certificate of appointment would be issued to the station.

QUESTION: Since semiannual inspections are no longer required for motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs., as a safety inspector with a class 1 inspector's license, am I now able to inspect these vehicles annually?

ANSWER: No. Only a safety inspector certified to inspect trucks over 17,000 lbs. can perform inspections on motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs.

QUESTION: Can the inspections of these vehicles now be recorded in the same MV-431 form, "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Inspection Record," with other vehicles that are inspected annually?

ANSWER: Yes. All annual inspections are to be recorded in the same MV-431 form, "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Inspection Record."

QUESTION: What type of certificate of inspection shall be affixed to a motor carrier vehicle with a registered weight in excess of 17,000 lbs.?

ANSWER: An annual certificate of inspection shall be affixed to the vehicle.

QUESTION: Can a motor carrier vehicle with a registered weight in excess of 17,000 lbs. be inspected semiannually if the owner chooses?

ANSWER: Yes. However, upon passing the safety inspection, a new annual certificate of inspection with a 1-year insert from the date of inspection is to be affixed to the vehicle.

QUESTION: May a semiannual certificate of inspection be affixed to a motor carrier vehicle with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs. after February 02, 2017?

ANSWER: No. An annual certificate of inspection is to be affixed to the vehicle.

QUESTION: Can I return unused semiannual certificates of inspection to PennDOT for a refund prior to my station audit?

ANSWER: No. Your Quality Assurance Officer (QAO) reconciles your sticker inventory as part of the audit at your station. PennDOT will refund 75% of the purchase price to the station for all unused stickers.

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

Helpful Online Videos

HAVE QUESTIONS?



Check out Parsons' YouTube channel, which has helpful "how-to" videos including: getting started, adding a user, password lockout and more.

To view the videos go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ParsonsPaVIC>

PARSONS

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Pennsylvania's Vehicle Inspection Program

As PennDOT's contracted Emissions Program Manager, Parsons is working to provide all emission inspection stations across the state with information they need to know about vehicle inspection requirements.

Have A Suggested Topic For Next Issue?

Contact the Inspection Station

Operator Hotline at 888-265-5909



Important Vehicle Inspection Information

Pennsylvania's Vehicle Inspection Program

Inspections Newsletter – In This Issue

- Vehicle Registration License Plate Sticker Eliminated
- How To Get Vehicle Inspection Regulations Manuals
- Inspector Recertification
- Recreational Vehicles & Motorcycles
- OBD & VISUAL Emissions Equipment Specification Changes
- Elimination of Semiannual Inspections of Heavy Trucks

