



INSPECTIONS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

SAFETY INSPECTOR RECERTIFICATION

PennDOT's recertification program for safety inspectors and document reviewers has changed. Safety inspection regulations (67 Pa. Code § 175.28) have been updated to expand the period of recertification from three years to five years.



All safety inspectors will receive individual renewal letters with specific instructions. Please be sure to review ALL materials included in the renewal letter so that you are clear on what you need to do, and how to do it. Inspectors will renew their certification by passing the required examination within 180-days of notification from the Department. Inspectors must pass the recertification examination before their expiration date or will be required to attend a Safety Inspector Initial Certification class at an approved school to re-establish their safety inspection privileges.

FOR ADDITIONAL RECERTIFICATION INFO SEE INSIDE THIS ISSUE ►

Valid Driver's Licenses - Required to Conduct Inspections



At times, there is confusion on what is considered a valid driver's license, for the purposes of conducting an emissions and/or safety inspection. Per regulations, in addition to possessing a valid emissions and/or safety inspector certification card, an inspector must also have a valid driver's license. To that point, we've received questions as to what constitutes a "valid" driver's license for the purpose of conducting an emission and/or emission inspection.

A valid driver's license is a license that, at the time of inspection, allows the inspector to drive any vehicle within their license class and under any normal conditions; specifically, it is not a "Limited License." When checking an inspector's driver's license status, the most common way for station owners, and persons of authority, to validate the license of an inspector is by referring to the driver's license itself. In the lower right-hand corner of the license, in the outline of the State of Pennsylvania, the license will display what type it is. For example if an inspector has general license, the letters "DL" will appear on the license. For a commercial driver's license, the letter "CDL" will appear.

As an example, if a driver's license contains the words "ignition interlock" or "probationary" in the outline of the State of Pennsylvania, it would not qualify as a valid driver's license for the purposes of conducting and emission and/or safety inspection. You will also see the words "Limited License" to the left of the photo (above the photo on under 21 licenses). While such a license may be legal for that inspector to use to drive a specially-equipped vehicle, or under certain limited conditions, it is not valid for the purposes of conducting an inspection. Ignition interlock and probationary are only a couple examples; there are a range of limited driver's licenses that may be issued.

We've also received questions asking; since you do not have to road test a vehicle for an emissions inspection, would it be acceptable to use a limited license only in these instances. The answer is no; for the inspector to legally perform an emissions inspection, they must also have a fully valid (not-limited) driver's license as described above. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

Should you have concerns about any other limitations you see on a driver's license, you may contact PennDOT directly, at (717) 787-2895.

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



Helpful Online Videos



HAVE QUESTIONS? **E** **S**

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>

E Emissions

S Safety



SHOP SAFETY TIPS

- Always wear safety glasses or goggles to protect your eyes. 
- Dust masks or respirators should be worn when doing repairs on clutches and brakes which can produce hazardous dust.

INSPECTION STATION OPERATOR HOTLINE **888-265-5909**

The Inspection Station Operator Hotline is 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. **E**

Frequently Asked Questions

Adding Technicians To A Station's Emission Analyzer

When adding inspector(s) to your emission analyzer, you must fax the following documents to your regional office:

1. A fax cover sheet (as well as all other sheets) clearly indicating:
 - Your station name
 - Your station number
 - Your contact name
 - Your phone number
2. A photocopy of the Certified Emission Inspector's License for each inspector being added.
3. A photocopy of the Certified Inspector's Driver's License for each inspector being added.
4. A photocopy of the updated emission technician list or MV-516 that lists all certified Inspector(s).

Deleting Technicians From A Station's Emission Analyzer

When deleting inspector(s) from your emission analyzer, you must fax a photocopy of the updated emission technician list or MV-516 and clearly note which inspector(s) are to be removed.

Once you have completed these steps, wait until the end of the day and perform a Data File Refresh (DFR) on your analyzer. This will update your inspectors.

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Electronic Proof Of Insurance

For safety inspection purposes, a "hard copy" proof of insurance is not always necessary. Stations should accept the information electronically, when provided in lieu of paper. Inspectors must accept proof of insurance in an electronic format on an electronic device. Keep in mind that the owner of the electronic device assumes liability for any damage to the device while in possession of the inspector.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating E

Reminder to verify the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) from the door panel of the vehicle when conducting and emissions inspection. Vehicles 1996 and newer with a GVWR of 8501-9000 will require a TSI or Visual Inspection (depending on county of registration) not an OBD inspection.

Error Message – "No Repair Information Found" E

If this message appears during the waiver issuance process, stations may have entered the wrong letter designation when inputting repair information. When entering the waiver repair information, stations should be entering "S" for SERVICED (not "R" which is for RECOMMENDED).



Another common cause is that data input during previous failed tests does not match. Be sure to look closely at the VIN, title, and the license plate numbers entered for both tests. The numbers must match exactly. If they are not the same, another failed test must be run.

Error Message - "Waiver Denied" E

If this error message appears during the waiver issuance process, stations may have selected a "Diagnostic Waiver." Diagnostic Waivers are not authorized for a repair waiver. Stations must choose the "Waiver" option to be able to continue to successfully issue the repair waiver. In addition, if one of the failed tests is a "not ready test" this will also cause the waiver to be denied.

Properly Documenting Failures on Work Orders S

Be sure that customers understand the reason(s) for their failure to pass the State Safety Inspection. This promotes the customer's trust in your services, reduces consumer complaints and provides you with documentation.

For example: consumer received a work order failing their vehicle for alignment; the consumer files a complaint for unnecessary repairs.

Upon investigation, the vehicle failed for failure to remain in lane during the road test and the alignment was the repair needed to pass that portion of the test. The station may have won the complaint, but they lost a customer. On another work order the station failed for "rusty rotors." The actual reason for the failure was that the vehicle's braking ability was compromised during the road test - the rotors were the cause of the failure but not the actual failure.

Steps you can take to make it clear to the customer as to why their vehicle failed inspection:

- Clearly indicate the section of the Inspection code you are failing for, not only the repair.
- Where a measurement is required for a failure – such as ball joints – indicate the measurement along with the required minimum/maximum to pass.
- Where there is a recommended repair that does not fail for Inspection, indicate it is not required - but recommended, and why.
- Make sure the required brake and tire readings are on every work order.

SAFETY INSPECTOR RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Who is required to take the recertification exam?

All current (non-expired) vehicle safety inspectors and certified document reviewers will be required to take the exam prior to their current expiration date. Safety inspection regulations (67 Pa. Code § 175.28) have been updated to expand the period of recertification from three years to five years. Additionally, a new five-year recertification exam is being introduced. PennDOT has worked with the industry associations on the exam and training recertification development.

Pre-1983 Recertification Exempt Option is Ending

Recently signed legislation has eliminated the recertification exempt option for safety inspectors originally certified prior to 1983. This legislation becomes effective January 3, 2017. At that time, all Safety Inspectors due to expire will be required to take and pass an online recertification exam, within 180-days of their expiration date, in order to maintain their vehicle safety inspection privileges.

Inspectors who have already taken the exempt option prior to the legislative effective date, and have received their new ID card and number, will maintain their 5-yr expiration period. At the end of that period, they will have to recertify by taking and passing the online exam.

When can I expect to get my notice?

Individual renewal letters are being mailed to all inspectors and certified document reviewers with specific instructions. The renewal letter will direct the each individual to a website to register. A toll-free number will be provided to assist with any questions. Inspectors and Certified Document Reviewers will need to renew their certification by passing the required examination within 180-days of the renewal notification from the Department.

What license classes are required?

All license classes are subject to recertification and are based on the mechanic's current license code(s).

How much will it cost?

Pricing will be determined by the class of certificate that the inspector is recertifying for. The full pricing schedule is as follows:

As training is optional, you may take the —
Exam Only Option: \$59.99

On-line exam and scoring, includes all relevant categories, (80% is passing grade. A failing grade will require taking the full training package; there is no free retest option.) - **OR** -

Full Training Package - 1: \$89.99

Includes all training materials, baseline test and **one** category, on-line exam and scoring, one free retest

**Full Training Package - 2 :
\$89.99 + \$9.99**

Includes all training materials, baseline test and **two** categories, on-line exam and scoring, one free retest

**Full Training Package - 3 :
\$89.99 + \$9.99 + \$9.99**

Includes all training materials, baseline test and **three** categories, on-line exam and scoring, one free retest

**Full Training Package - 4 :
\$89.99 + \$9.99 + \$9.99 + \$9.99**

Includes all training materials, baseline test and **four** categories, on-line exam and scoring, one free retest

Certified Document Reviewer: \$29.99

Includes all training materials, on-line exam and scoring, one free retest

Full Training Package Retest: \$24.99

This paid retest is available one-time only after the Full Training Package free retest is taken and the technician did not receive a passing grade.

NOTE: There is a maximum of three attempts to pass the recertification exam. After three attempts, the retest will not be offered.

SAFETY INSPECTOR RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Once I take and pass the recertification exam, when will I be required to recertify?

Once you pass the recertification exam, you will be required to recertify every five years thereafter.

When will I be required to take the exam and optional training?

Inspectors will be able to access the website to purchase training materials and exam packages options once they are within 180-days of their expiration date. The individual renewal notices will provide all the necessary details.

How are the inspection stations notified of this change?

Notice was sent by Official PennDOT Bulletin in January 2016.

How do I determine what the categories are?

Your current certifications are included on the back of your existing credential. The categories, also referred to as your mechanic license code, are as follows:

- Code 1** – Inspection of passenger cars, trucks 17,000 pounds or less and trailers less than 10,000 pounds;
- Code 2** – Inspection of motorcycles;
- Code 3** – Inspection of trucks over 17,000 pounds, trailers over 10,000 pounds and buses;
- Code 4** – Inspection of all vehicles;
- Code 5** – Inspections under codes 1 and 2;
- Code 6** – Inspections under codes 2 and 3;
- Code 7** – Inspections under codes 1 and 3.

Example: *If you have a Category 7 certification, which has two categories (1 and 3), you may choose the Exam Only option for \$59.99 (no training materials provided and no retest option if you fail) or you may choose the full training/exam package, which includes the baseline and one category for \$89.99, and an additional \$9.99 for the additional category.*

Am I required to go to a school to take the training?

Training is optional. The inspector will have the option to take the training and exam from their personal computer or at an official PennDOT approved school. Schools may charge an additional fee. Participating schools will be listed on the website after you register on-line.

What is the process to get my new credentials (updated identification card)?

Your renewal letter will direct you to a website to register for renewal. Updated identification cards are mailed to the inspector or certified document reviewer after successful completion of the on-line exam. Your updated identification card will be good for 5-years and will display your new inspector or certified document reviewer ID number. This new number will replace your current ID number. After receiving the updated card, you should begin using the new ID number in place of your previous ID number on all safety inspection related documents.

If I fail the exam, will I be informed as to which areas/topics I need to improve?

In the event you do not pass the exam, your exam results will include the specific areas of study that you need to concentrate on.

How many times can I fail the test?

You have three attempts to pass the exam. Should you fail to pass in each of those attempts, you will be required to retake the initial safety inspector certification course at a PennDOT approved school. Upon passing the initial course of study, you will be certified for three years, and recertify at the end of that three-year period.

PENNSYLVANIA EMISSIONS INSPECTION PROGRAM

OBD and VISUAL Emissions Equipment Specification Changes

PennDOT has updated the specifications for OBD equipment for authorized Emissions Inspection Stations. A series of OBD Information Sessions were held across Pennsylvania in October and November 2016 to provide Station Owners and Certified Inspectors with information about changes in the program, so that they can better understand what is required to maintain inspection capabilities.

PennDOT wants to provide you with early information about upcoming emissions equipment specification changes, so that you can be prepared to make informed decisions. 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.

Emissions Inspections Are Federally Mandated

Vehicle emissions inspections are federally mandated by the 1990 Clean Air Act. Since June 2004, 25 counties in PA have a vehicle emission testing program. Pennsylvania's State Implementation Plan (SIP) has been approved by EPA.

Why Are The Specifications Changing?

Updates to the specifications are required to keep the OBD and Visual equipment current and to enable transmission of data as federally required. Technology has changed dramatically since 2003, when the specifications were last modified. The current equipment technology cannot reliably continue indefinitely. New equipment will meet today's technology standards and ensure continued security of the inspection network. The changes also take advantage of advances in vehicle OBD technology.

Are Any Changes Being Made To The Tailpipe Equipment?

No, not at this time.

Can I Review The New Specifications?

The final version of the new equipment specifications will be posted early in 2017. Once finalized, a link to the post will be placed on the website... www.padrivecleanportal.com. Visit the site regularly to stay informed.

Will I Need To Maintain My Dedicated Land Phone Line?

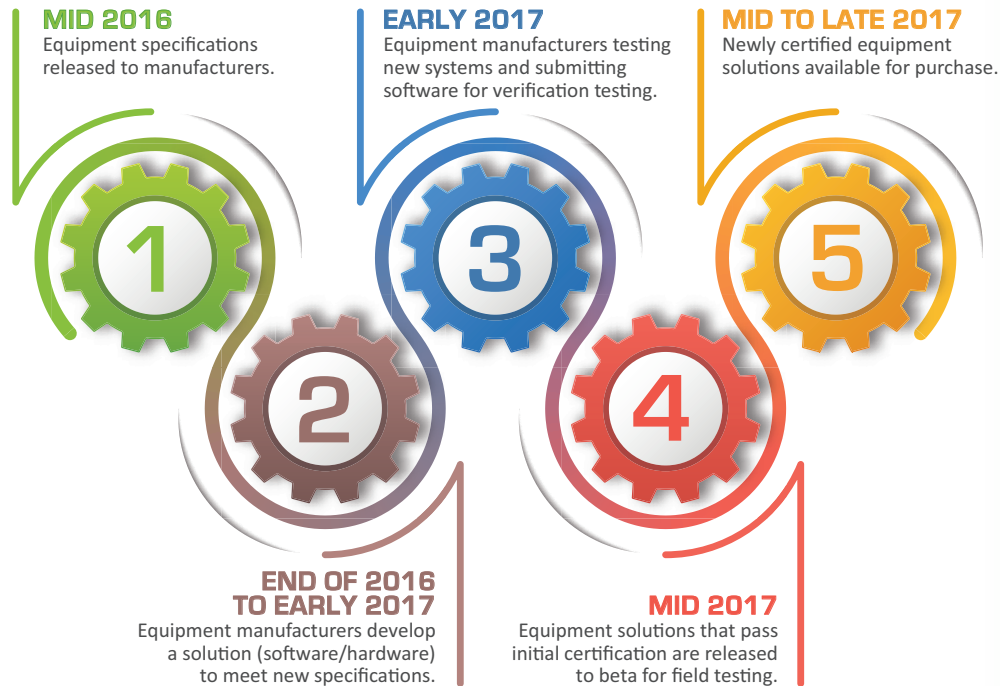
Only if you provide tailpipe (ASM/TSI) inspections.

What Enhancements/Changes Are Being Made To The Equipment?*

1. Move to internet-based network communication to provide a faster, reliable and more secure transmission of data.
2. Inspector Password Enhancements including: the ability to assign individual inspector passwords and manage passwords at the station level.
3. Increased inspection history on analyzer. New equipment will be able to store a minimum of 240 days of inspection records and sticker history.
4. Data backup on USB drive instead of floppy disk.
5. Data restoration from backup in event of hard drive failure or replacement. Equipment will allow retention of inspection history and sticker history.
6. More reliable vehicle communications. The new system is not dependent on power from vehicle DLC. OBD communication enhancements to increase accuracy.
7. OBD Module Self-Check - communication enhancements to increase accuracy. Will allow verification of OBD Module performance. Aid in troubleshooting OBD communication issues.

*** Additional changes will be communicated as they become finalized.**

What Is The Timeline For The Transition?



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.

Please watch the www.padrivecleanportal.com website for the current status of the certification process and a list of the equipment certified under the new specifications.

Which Equipment Manufacturers Will Be Offering New Equipment?

To date, the manufacturers listed below have indicated to PennDOT that they will be participating in the equipment certification process.



Will I Be Required To Purchase New Equipment?

If you wish to continue as an official emissions inspection station, conducting OBD and Visual inspections, you will need to use approved equipment. The new equipment specifications will supersede the existing equipment specifications. Once the new equipment solutions are available from the equipment manufacturers, you will have a period of time to acquire a new equipment solution before the old equipment is removed from the inspection system.

When Can I Purchase The New Equipment?

We anticipate that Equipment Manufacturers will have completed the certification process by mid to late 2017. Once PennDOT certifies an equipment solution, you will be able to purchase it. You should only purchase certified equipment.

In Addition To New Equipment Are There Other Requirements?

Yes, you will need a "wired" high speed internet connection at your station for the new OBD and Visual equipment to communicate. In most cases, cable, satellite and DSL companies are able to provide a connection that has sufficient high-speed. There must be a wired connection from the router/modem to the emission inspection equipment. The internet service itself does not need to be exclusively dedicated to the emission equipment. You can use your existing high-speed internet service provided you have an open network port on your router that will allow you to connect a network cable directly to your equipment.

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

PARSONS

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Important Vehicle Inspection Information

Pennsylvania's Vehicle Inspection Program

Inspections Newsletter – In This Issue

- Safety Inspector Recertification Program
- Valid Driver's Licenses - Required To Conduct Inspections
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Electronic Proof Of Insurance
- Pennsylvania Emissions Inspection Program
- Gross Vehicle Weight Rating Reminder

