



# INSPECTIONS NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

## IM DRIVE CLEAN DESKMAT REFERENCE GUIDE



Parsons recently mailed each inspection station a Drive Clean deskmat reference guide. The deskmat 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 deskmat 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 deskmat 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 deskmat 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.



**On-Board Diagnostics (OBD)**  
Required equipment in cars, vans, SUVs, and light trucks manufactured after 1996. Continuously monitors the vehicle emissions control system as well as other vehicle information, to alert the driver if they are working properly.

**OBD Test Results**  
When the emissions inspection process, a warning light is activated by a code or codes that are stored in the vehicle's OBD computer. When any emissions-related malfunction is detected, the Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL) will illuminate. The Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) is recorded and stored in the vehicle's OBD computer.  
The testing unit is able to retrieve specific trouble codes stored by the vehicle's OBD system.

**Benefits of OBD**  
On-Board Diagnostics provide faster and more accurate diagnosis.  
Enables early detection and repair of defects in key and safety-critical systems, ensuring vehicle performance and fuel economy.  
Inspection personnel can quickly identify problems with the vehicle system, which have not been repaired to reduce emissions.

**What Does It Mean When The Check Engine Light Comes Out?**  
The "Check Engine" or "Malfunction Indicator Lamp" (MIL) comes on when an emissions-related malfunction is detected by the vehicle's OBD computer. This warning light indicates that the vehicle's emissions have exceeded the manufacturer's standards by 1-2 times.

**Common Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTCs) And Their Causes**

- P0456 - Evaporative Emission Control System Leak (Small)
- P0457 - Evaporative Emission Control System Leak (Large)
- P0462 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
- P0463 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
- P0464 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
- P0465 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
- P0466 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
- P0467 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
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- P0496 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
- P0497 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
- P0498 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction
- P0499 - Fuel Filler Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction

**Getting a Car "Ready"**  
A few days of city and highway driving will normally allow the OBD system to "clear" the "Ready" status. The vehicle will become "Ready" after a short period of normal driving. Vehicles with "Not Ready" status will be inspected on the next inspection date. Some vehicle manufacturers provide specific driving procedures to "Ready" a vehicle. These are known as "Drive Cycles".

**Vehicle Communications**  
Some vehicles may experience communication issues. These are not typically caused by a malfunction of the OBD system, or a physical damage to the vehicle's Diagnostic Link Connector (DLC). Malfunction and should be diagnosed and repaired when they have been identified.

## SAFETY Recreational Vehicle Inspection Requirements



The warmer weather means more people will be bringing their recreational vehicles in for inspection before heading out on the road. 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 rejection criteria for recreational, semi and utility trailers, please reference Section 175.130 of Subchapter G of the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations.





# SAFETY & IM

## Change of Ownership



If there is a change in ownership of a certified inspection station, the new owner needs to submit a Form MV-427 application to the Bureau. The certificate of appointment is only valid for the person to whom it was issued and cannot be assigned to another person.

In many cases of change in ownership; the certificate of appointment, all unissued certificates of inspection, and all inspection material should be surrendered to the Quality Assurance Officer.

However, if the change is that ownership is being transferred to a spouse, child or parent, then it is not necessary to surrender unissued certificates of inspection. This is also the case if there is a modification of a partnership or transfer of controlling interest in a corporation.

Keep in mind that no inspections can be conducted until the new ownership has been approved and a new certificate of appointment has been issued.

**The Form MV-427 can be downloaded at - <http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/inspections/Safety%20Station.pdf>**

The applicant is now required to submit the documentation directly to PennDOT for validation and, upon acceptance of the documentation, the Quality Assurance Officer will perform the site visit at the conclusion of the documentation review. Additional documentation requirements and the check list are accessible on PennDOT's website at [http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/inspections/station\\_owners](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/inspections/station_owners).

### SAFETY Wipers & Rear Windows

In order to pass a Safety inspection, windshield wiper systems must be in safe operating condition capable of cleaning rain, snow and other moisture from the windshield. However, the wipers on a vehicle's rear window do NOT need to be operational or pass any inspection.

### SAFETY Windshield Inspection

When inspecting windshields for defects, there are several things to keep in mind. First, the acute area of the windshield does not include the entire sweep area of the windshield wipers. The acute area of the windshield is confined to the driver's side of the vehicle directly in the driver's normal line of vision.





## SAFETY & IM E S Windshield Replacement Stickers

Windshield replacement stickers for both safety and emissions may be replaced within the prescribed 5 day window from the date of replacement without reinspecting the vehicle. For safety and emission replacement stickers, the information from the original sticker mileage and date should be indicated on the back of the replacement sticker along with the word "Replacement". The piece of glass with the original stickers affixed shall be retained for audit by the QAO. Even if the station issued the "OLD" original stickers, the piece of replacement glass must be retained for an audit.



## How To Determine If A Tire Is S Too Small To Pass Inspection

Regulations indicate to "Reject-if... A tire is smaller than the manufacturer's recommended minimum size or below the manufacturer's recommended load rating".

To determine if a tire is "...smaller than the manufacturer's recommended minimum size...", you may advise the station manager/inspector that they need to determine if the tire on the vehicle, at the time of inspection, has a overall outside diameter smaller than the manufacturers recommended minimum diameter, based on the original tire size. If it is smaller in diameter, then that tire would not pass the safety inspection because it does not meet the minimum requirements. There are a variety of resources that can be used in determining tire-diameter based on the tire size, such as tire manufacturer or tire retailer websites, web-based tire diameter calculators, tire diameter calculator "smart-phone" applications, and printed tire specification charts which are typically available from parts stores and tool suppliers.

## Altered Emission Systems E

If you are inspecting a vehicle that has an altered emission system, you should be aware that it is not permissible to change the system. This applies to all vehicles, whether the owner resides in an Emission regulated county or not.

A vehicle may be equipped with any added components which are designed to improve emissions, but it is illegal to knowingly operate a vehicle whose emission control system has been disabled, changed or altered from its original design specifications, except for in-kind replacement of system components. For questions or clarification on a specific vehicle situation, please call the station operator hotline for assistance.

## Answering Your Questions S

**Q:** Why does Parsons require the "padrivecleanportal.com" passwords to be changed so often?

**A:** As a vendor to PennDOT, Parsons is required to have certain IT security measures in place in order to protect sensitive online data. Regularly changing passwords is one of the IT security requirements that must be in place. You are required to change your password every 3 months and must use 10 unique passwords before you can repeat.

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# PREPARING FOR AN AUDIT



Here's a helpful checklist to help you prepare for an audit.

## EMISSIONS STATION CHECKLIST

- Proof of Garage Keeper's Liability Insurance
- MV-427 (updated)
- MV-516 (listing of Emission inspectors)
- MV-500
- Wheel Chocks
- Functioning Emission Equipment
- All proper gas cap adapters
- Last I/M Audit Report
- Sticker Receipts
- Current and Expired Stickers
- Current Fee Sign
- I/M placard hanging below the Keystone Sign
- Valid Driver's License and Technician License from available Technicians
- Clean Inspection Area
- Copy of I/M Regulations
- Sticker Usage Reports
- Old stickers from Windshield Replacements
- All documentation for Waivers if performing them



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## SAFETY STATION CHECKLIST



- Proof of Garage Keeper's Liability Insurance
- MV-427 (updated)
- MV-443 (listing of safety inspection mechanics)
- MV-500
- Tools:
  1. Hammers – a ball-peen hammer, one plastic or brass hammer & one rubber hammer
  2. A workbench
  3. A portable light
  4. Socket sets
  5. Assorted open end & box end wrenches
  6. Torque wrenches (foot-pound and inch pound)
  7. Screw drivers – assorted
  8. Pliers – assorted
  9. Test light – continuity tester
  10. Floor stands – four (4)
  11. Floor jack or hoist – wheels shall spin freely
  12. Tire pressure gauge
  13. Brake drum gauges
  14. Micrometer gauges or thickness gauges, with measurements in 1/1000 inch, capable of measuring both the range of rotor thickness and the depth of the scores
  15. Ball Joint gauge (not required for recreational, utility & motorcycle stations)
  16. Tread depth gauge capable of indicating amount of usable tire tread in increments of 1/32 inch
  17. Brake-Lining gauge capable of indicating the amount of usable lining on both riveted and bonded lining in increments of 1/32 inch
  18. An approved headlight testing device – SAE approved No. J600a for photo-electric type and J602c for mechanical aimers
- Last Safety Audit Report
- Sticker Receipts
- Current & Expired Stickers
- Current Fee Sign
- Keystone Sign with Safety placard (OIS#)
- Valid Driver's License and Technician License from available Technicians
- Clean Inspection Area
- Copy of Safety Regulations
- Old stickers from Windshield Replacements

# 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  
**888-265-5909**

## PARSONS

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# Important Vehicle Inspection Information

## Pennsylvania's Vehicle Inspection Program

### Inspections Newsletter – In This Issue

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