

**RECONSTRUCTED • FLOOD • RECOVERED THEFT • STREET RODS • COLLECTABLE • MODIFIED • SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED**

## **ENHANCED VEHICLE SAFETY**

# **INSPECTIONS**



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## The First Issue Of Enhanced Vehicle Safety Inspections Newsletter

PennDOT's goal in publishing the Enhanced Vehicle Safety Inspections Newsletter is to provide enhanced safety inspection stations and inspectors with the information you need to perform inspections and process the necessary paperwork for vehicles after they have been modified.

You'll notice that the newsletter has been 3-hole punched, so you can easily store issues in a three-ring binder for reference. A PDF of each issue can also be found on the e-SAFETY portal at [www.penndotesafety.pa.gov](http://www.penndotesafety.pa.gov).

If you have enhanced safety inspection questions or topics you'd like to be covered in future issues, please let us know. We welcome your suggestions. Contact the Inspection Operator Hotline at **888-265-5909**.



### Enhanced Inspection Reference Material

**PennDOT Pub 645** is the reference for enhanced inspectors. A PDF version of this self-study training and reference guide can be found online at <https://www.dot.state.pa.us/public/dvspubsforms/BMV/BMV%20Publications/PUB%20645.pdf>

## Reminders Two Things

- 1. Inspection information is required to be entered in e-SAFETY** instead of on a paper MV-431 form, or other system. All other paperwork (e.g., MV426B) is still required to be completed, on paper, as always.
- 2. Exterior photos of the vehicle are required to show your inspection station** in the background, in order to document it was at your facility for inspection. Photos must be in color.

# Enhanced Inspection Versus State Inspection

All of the same pass or fail criteria in Pub 45 (Safety Inspection Regulations) that must be met for a regular state inspection applies to an enhanced inspection. In addition, vehicles going through enhanced inspection must also meet all the vehicle code requirements of the applicable inspection manual subchapter, as well as those in Subchapter K.

**For example:** A passenger car has to meet the requirements of 175.80 (inspection procedure in Subchapter E), plus everything in 175.61 to 175.78, and all of Subchapter K that is applicable to the vehicle type. In addition, all original safety equipment (such as ABS brakes, airbags, vehicle stability control) must also work.

## The Most Commonly Overlooked Enhanced Safety Inspection Items

- ✓ Emissions components that have been removed or tampered with
- ✓ Window tinting and obstructions
- ✓ Hood scoops
- ✓ Suspension and chassis modifications
- ✓ Ornamental lighting
- ✓ Odometer repair or replacement
- ✓ Fuel system modifications
- ✓ Clear tail lights with no reflex reflectors



## Emissions Components: Inspect And Verify

When inspecting emissions components on the vehicle, you will need to determine what was original emissions equipment and what, if anything, was added later. If it was original equipment, which appears to be properly connected and the correct type, then indicate "P" or pass for that vehicle. For any components that were not factory installed, check N/A.

If you fail to adequately check and indicate "P" for all items on a vehicle that has both original and aftermarket emissions components, this could result in station and/or inspector penalties.

## PAPERWORK THAT VEHICLE OWNERS MUST PROVIDE

Vehicle owners must provide proof of ownership in the form of a salvage certificate or manufacturer's statement of origin for the vehicle before a shop performs the enhanced inspection. If the owner has had repairs done elsewhere or constructed the vehicle themselves, then they must provide receipts for all parts replaced and/or plans and material lists.

## KEEPING A PAPER TRAIL

While you may use a variety of digital storage mediums at your shop, regulations require that you must print out all paperwork and color photos. It's necessary to maintain a complete paper copy on file at your shop of each enhanced inspection, so that it is available for review by a QAO or PennDOT at a later date.

## PROMPT RECORD KEEPING IS GOOD RECORD KEEPING

It is a requirement that you enter all the inspection information into e-SAFETY on the same day that you conducted the inspection. Putting off data entry can result in errors and penalties.





## Is There Such A Thing As A Reconstructed Vehicle With No Repairs?

Yes. A car that the insurance company deemed a total loss solely due to cosmetic damage can be issued a reconstructed title. For example, if a vehicle has been determined to be a total loss due to being extensively damaged by hail, but the dents are just cosmetic and are not going to be removed.



## e-SAFETY Tip - Small Details For Small Trailers

The enhanced MV-480 inspection form in e-SAFETY is designed to capture data for all vehicles getting an Annual Outside sticker (e.g., motorcycles, trailers). When doing a small, single-axle trailer, enter a minimum brake specification (e.g., 2B) front and rear and odometer reading (e.g., 1), and note "Single-axle trailer, no brakes" in the comment field to show these were just placeholders.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### Check Engine Light

**Q** If a vehicle is undergoing an enhanced inspection and the check engine light is on (key on, engine running, or KOER) for an emissions fault, does it have to be corrected to pass?

**A** Per Pub 645, Reconstructed, flood, and recovered theft vehicles must be restored to their original operating condition as designed by the vehicle manufacturer and must conform to the original manufacturer's specifications and appearance. This includes (but is not limited to) air bags, seat belt/restraint systems, emissions components, etc. For enhanced inspections, the manual states that except for collectable vehicles, "all emissions control components that were on the vehicle at the time it was manufactured must be present and in working order." This means to apply the visual inspection criteria of Chapter 177 of evaluating if the component is present, appears to be properly connected, and appears to be the correct type for the vehicle. As such, a vehicle will **not** fail an enhanced safety inspection for a malfunction indicator light being on, indicating an emissions equipment fault, but the fact of the light being on during KOER should be documented on the application paperwork. Note that the enhanced safety inspection process is done to obtain a new vehicle title from a vehicle previously not titled, or bearing a salvage certificate. After title and registration is obtained, the vehicle will need a regular state Safety Inspection, and if registered in an Emissions designated county, it will also need an Emissions inspection. An emissions fault/KOER condition would fail an OBD emissions test and would have to be diagnosed/repared before being able to pass the emissions inspection.

