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Pennsylvania

INSPECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Important Vehicle Inspection Information

Pennsylvania's Vehicle Inspection Program

SPRING 2025 ISSUE

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Motorcycle Inspection Schedules And Safety Sticker Regulations



Amendments to Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Section 4708 became effective January 17, 2025. The amendments change the motorcycle safety inspection schedule. **Motorcycle inspections may now be done throughout the calendar year, based on the previous inspection expiry date.**

The new provisions are as follows:

- Motorcycles must be inspected annually and receive a safety inspection sticker, which is valid for one year from the expiration of the safety inspection sticker that is about to expire.
- A safety inspection sticker for a motorcycle may not be issued for more than 15 months from the month of the previous inspection sticker.
- If a motorcycle does not display a currently valid certificate of inspection, the motorcycle should get a safety inspection sticker valid for one year from the month of inspection.

The amendment replaces the previous provisions under Section 4702, which mandated inspection schedules based on the expiration dates of motorcycle registrations within specific months each year.

Have Inspection Questions?

Get answers from the PennDOT
Help Line: 717-787-2895

Hotline operators are available
Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

When calling the hotline, be sure to document the date you called, who you spoke with and what was said.



Process For Adding Or Deleting An Inspector From Your Emissions Analyzer

Making changes to emissions inspectors on your station's analyzer requires calling the Inspection Station Operator Hotline at 888-265-5909.

Stations have the option of either faxing or emailing the required documents. The request to add or delete an inspector(s) can be:

- Faxed to 717-963-8434, or
- Emailed to documents@PaStationHotline.com

After the request has been submitted, it will take 24 hours during business days (Monday-Friday) to process. To verify that the change has been made, perform a data file refresh (DFR) on the analyzer. This will update the list of inspectors for your station.

Form MV-516: Current List Of Certified Emission Inspectors And Repair Technicians

An up-to-date listing of current certified inspectors for the station should be posted on the inspection station's wall.

Form MV-516 can be printed from the emissions analyzer or downloaded from the PennDOT website at <https://www.dot.state.pa.us/public/dvspubsforms/BMV/BMV%20Forms/mv-516.pdf>



TO ADD AN INSPECTOR TO AN EMISSIONS ANALYZER

If you need to add an inspector(s) to your emissions analyzer, you must submit your request, along with the documents listed below.

1. A cover sheet with the request to add an inspector clearly indicating:
 - a. Station name
 - b. Station phone number
 - c. Station contact name
 - d. Name of inspector(s) to be added
2. A photocopy of the Certified Emissions Inspector's license for each inspector being added.
3. A photocopy of the Certified Emissions Inspector's driver's license for each inspector being added.
4. A photocopy of the updated Emissions Technician list of MV-516 that lists all certified inspectors.

Both the Certified Emissions Inspector's and driver's licenses must be valid.

TO DELETE AN INSPECTOR FROM AN EMISSIONS ANALYZER

To delete an inspector(s) from your emissions analyzer, you must send the emissions technician list and the MV-516 form and clearly note which inspector(s) is to be removed.

Helpful Analyzer Reports

Your station's Emissions analyzer can provide you with useful reports when determining a vehicle's previous inspection history, preparing for an audit or issuing an exemption.

Stickers Used Report

Generated from the station menu, the stickers used report provides data on all stickers that were issued by your station. Although this report is not required for an audit, reviewing it is good way to track stickers to help identify any that may have been issued incorrectly and correct them prior to an audit.

Previous Inspection History Report

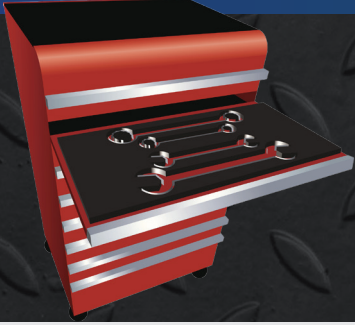
Another helpful report, which is also found in the station menu, is the previous inspection history report. This is an excellent report for looking up the emissions inspection history

of any vehicle, even if it was not inspected at your station.

This report is also one of the best ways to produce the required documentation for a 5,000-mile exemption. The emissions station/inspector must retain proof of the previous mileage source used. This documentation must be attached to a copy of the 5,000-mile exemption Sticker Issuance Report and both must be retained for Quality Assurance Officer review during the next emissions station audit.

The only other acceptable documentation to prove previous mileage for a 5,000-mile exemption is the qualifying previous Safety Inspection sticker. The previous Emissions Inspection sticker is not acceptable for documentation.





INSPECTION TOOL TIPS

Ball Joint Gauge For Newer Vehicles

The ball joint gauge (pictured), although still serviceable, may not be suitable for inspecting newer vehicles. The gauge's size and design may make it difficult to access certain areas of the suspension system, which can hinder an accurate inspection.

To ensure compliance with regulations and maintain the ability to inspect a wide range of vehicles effectively, stations should consider purchasing a new vice-grip-style ball joint gauge.

The updated ball joint gauge is designed to accommodate the evolving automotive industry and provide accurate measurements for both older and newer vehicle models.



Insurance Requirements For Vehicle Inspection Stations

Inspection stations must have valid garage keeper liability insurance and maintain an up-to-date certificate of the insurance policy on the premises.

Stations are reminded that, per Section 175.22(b)(4) of the regulations, ***“...cancellation of the bond or insurance shall automatically void the certificate of appointment. Inspections shall cease until the Bureau receives a new bond or proof of insurance.”***

In addition to having a valid insurance certificate on hand, stations should log in to the inspections portal to update their insurance information online at <https://inspections.penndot.pa.gov/>



According to the regulations under Section 175.26, inspection stations are required to maintain all tools and equipment in good operating condition, ensuring they can inspect each type of vehicle they service.

Tire Tread Depth And Other Gauges To Measure Brake Lining

The Vehicle Inspection Division (VID) has received reports from multiple inspection stations regarding challenges they are facing in purchasing brake measuring gauges that conform to the current regulations. The VID discussed the issue with the Inspection Advisory Board to determine acceptable gauge alternatives.

To ensure that inspection stations are equipped with appropriate tools to accurately measure both riveted and bonded brake linings during annual safety inspections, the VID has modified gauge requirements. This flexibility in gauge selection allows stations to maintain accuracy and consistency in brake lining measurements while utilizing more readily available tools.

Inspection stations will now be permitted to use tire tread depth gauges and other similar gauges as alternatives to traditional brake-measuring gauges. This substitution is permitted provided the gauge can accurately measure the amount of usable brake lining in precise increments of 1/32 inch. While many gauges default to metric measurements, they should be adjustable to display readings in 32nds of an inch as required.

During audits, stations must be prepared to demonstrate that their chosen gauge can accurately measure brake lining in 1/32-inch increments, ensuring compliance with inspection regulations.

BUSINESS HOURS:

Mon.	7 A.M.	to	5 P.M.
Tues.	7 A.M.	to	5 P.M.
Wed.	7 A.M.	to	5 P.M.
Thur.	7 A.M.	to	5 P.M.
Fri.	7 A.M.	to	5 P.M.
Sat.		to	
Sun.		to	

STATION OPERATION REQUIREMENTS

Stations Must Maintain Regular Business Hours

Certified inspection stations must be open during normal business hours, unless a waiver of hours has been approved by PennDOT. An inspection station must be open for business for a minimum of 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday, between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm.