

Subchapter A

GENERAL PROVISIONS

175.1. Purpose

This chapter implements 75 Pa.C.S. §§4101-4982, (relating to vehicle characteristics).

175.2. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

ASME Code - The American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code; Section VIII, Division I, and Section IX of the 1971 and later editions.

ASTM - The American Society for Testing and Materials.

Acute Area of the Windshield - The center of the critical area on the driver's side of the vehicle directly in the driver's normal line of vision 8 1/2 inches wide and 5 1/2 inches high.

Allowable Working Pressure - The pounds per square inch for which the container was constructed, or if conditions have changed, the maximum pressure at specified temperatures permitted at the most recent inspection by a certified inspector.

Alteration - A change in the construction, design, or installation of a container that affects the strength or safety of the system.

Antique Motor Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions).

Auxiliary Driving Lamp - A lighting device mounted to provide illumination in front of the vehicle and to supplement the upper beam of a standard headlamp system; it is not intended for use alone or with the lower beam of a standard headlamp system.

Back-Up Lamp - A lamp used to provide illumination behind the vehicle and to provide a warning signal when the vehicle is in reverse gear.

Bead - The part of the tire made of steel wires wrapped or reinforced by ply cords, that is shaped to fit the rim.

Belt - A layer made of fabric or other material located under the tread area.

Bureau - The Bureau of Motor Vehicles of the Department.

Bus - A motor vehicle as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions).

CGA - The Compressed Gas Association, Inc.; 14501 George Carter Way, Suite 103, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Cargo Lamp - A lamp mounted on a multipurpose passenger vehicle, truck or bus that provides illumination to load or unload cargo.

Certified Inspection Mechanic - A person who holds a valid certification card issued by the Bureau certifying that the person is qualified, has passed all requirements to inspect specific vehicles and holds a valid driver's license for the correct class of vehicle.

Certified Inspector - A person who holds a certificate issued by the Boiler Division in the Bureau of Occupation and Industrial Safety within the Department of Labor and Industry certifying that the person is qualified to inspect unfired pressure vessels.

Classic Motor Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions).

Clearance Lamps - Lamps which show to the front or rear of a vehicle to indicate overall width and height of a vehicle—on trucks and buses 80 inches or more in width.

Collectible Motor Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Combination - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Commonwealth Inspection Station - An inspection station appointed to inspect all types of vehicles, space permitted, owned by and engaged exclusively in the performance of the official duties of the Federal Government, the Commonwealth, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

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Cord - The strands forming the plies in the tire.

Critical Area of the Windshield - The part of the vehicle windshield cleaned by the sweep of the windshield wiper system.

DOT - The United States Department of Transportation.

Department - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Designated Area - The geographic area which the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Resources, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, has identified as an Emission I/M Program designated area. A copy of the Department's designation is available upon request from the Department.

Driveaway-Towaway Operation - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Emergency Vehicle - As defined in 75 Pa.C.S. §102.

Essential Parts - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

FMVSS - Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards in 49 C.F.R. Part 571 (relating to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards).

Farm Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Firefighting Vehicle - A vehicle used exclusively for fighting fires. The term does not include passenger cars, buses and motorcycles.

Fleet Inspection Station - An inspection station appointed to inspect all types of vehicles, space permitting, leased by or owned and registered in the name of the person in whose name the certificate of appointment is issued.

Fleet Owner - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Fog Lamps - Lamps which are used with or in lieu of the lower beam headlamps to provide illumination under conditions of rain, snow or fog.

Foreign Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Fuel Supply Container - A tank or cylinder installed on a vehicle to supply fuel for the propulsion system of the vehicle.

GCWR - Gross Combination Weight Rating - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

GVWR - Gross Vehicle Weight Rating - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

General Inspection Station - An inspection station appointed to inspect all types of vehicles if the station is so equipped.

Groove - The space between two adjacent tread ribs.

Gross Weight - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Hazard Warning System or Emergency Signal System - A driver-controlled system of flashing front and rear lights used to warn approaching motorists when a car has broken down or is traveling at a slow speed.

Heavy Truck - A truck having a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 pounds or a truck tractor.

House Trailer - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

ICC - The Interstate Commerce Commission; now functionally superseded by DOT in matters relating to safety.

Identification Lamps - Lamps used in groups of three, in a horizontal row, which show to the front or rear, or both, on vehicles 80 inches or more in width.

Implement of Husbandry - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. §102.

Indicator Lights - Lamps that are visible to the operator of a vehicle that indicate operation of appropriate electrical circuits, malfunction of vehicle performance and requirement for remedial action by the operator of the vehicle.

Inspection Area - The area of a station in which all inspections must be conducted.

Inspection/Maintenance (I/M) Insert Tab - A number tab, applied to the safety certificate of inspection, which indicates the month in which the safety certificate of inspection expires and that the vehicle is subject to the Emission Inspection Program.

Inspection/Maintenance (I/M) Registration Indicator - An indicator on the registration card which identifies the vehicle as a subject vehicle which shall be emission inspected annually.

Inspection Station Supervisor - Any person designated by the Department to investigate, inspect and supervise the operation of inspection stations.

License Plate Lamp - A lamp used to illuminate the license plate on the rear of the vehicle.

Light Truck - A truck having a registered gross weight of 11,000 pounds or less.

Manufacturer - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Mass Transit Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Material Which Does Not Permit a Person to See or View the Inside of the Vehicle - A material which reduces the transmittance of light to below 70% or to a percentage which is less than the percentage permitted by FMVSS #205 in effect at the time of the vehicle's manufacture.

Medium Truck - A truck having a registered gross weight from 11,001 to 17,000 pounds, inclusive.

Mobile Home - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Modular Housing Undercarriage - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Modular Housing Unit - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Motor Carrier Vehicle - A truck, truck-tractor or combination having a gross weight or registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 pounds.

Motorcycle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Motorcycle Inspection Station - An inspection station appointed to inspect only motorcycles.

Motor-Driven Cycle - A motorcycle, including a motor scooter, with a motor which produces not to exceed five-brake horsepower, and every pedalcycle with a motor attached.

Motor Home - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Motorized Pedalcycle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Motor Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Multi-Purpose Passenger Vehicle - A passenger car which is constructed on a truck chassis or which has special features for off-road use, in addition to highway use.

NHTSA - The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D.C.

NFPA - The National Fire Protection Association; 470 Atlantic Avenue; Boston, Massachusetts 02210.

Ornamental Lamps - Lamps not required and not located as described in Tables III, IV and V of this chapter, unless available as original equipment. Flashing or revolving lights are not ornamental lamps. Flashing or revolving lights and their use are addressed in Chapters 15 and 173 (relating to authorized vehicles and special operating privileges; and flashing or revolving lights on emergency and authorized vehicles).

Parking Brake System - A brake system used to hold and maintain a vehicle in a stationary position. A positive mechanical means is employed to hold the brake applied when the vehicle is unattended.

Parking Lamps - Steady-burning, low intensity lights used when a vehicle is stopped or parked.

Passenger Car - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Pedalcycle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Person - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Ply - A layer of rubber-coated parallel cords.

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Pole Trailer - A trailer, including those with a variable wheelbase, attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole, or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle, and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregular-shaped loads, including poles, pipes or structural members capable of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections.

Rake - On motorcycles, the angle, measured in degrees, of a motorcycle's steering axis in relation to a line which is perpendicular to the vehicle wheel base; on passenger cars or trucks the ground clearance at the front or rear of a vehicle, reduced or increased, giving tilted appearance.

Reconstructed Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Recreational Trailer - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Recreational and Utility Trailer Inspection Station - An inspection station appointed to inspect only recreational and utility trailers.

Reflex Reflectors - A reflective device used for reflecting light, usually built into a lens.

Registered Gross Weight - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Registration - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Renewed Emissions Certificate of Inspection - An emissions certificate of inspection that remains valid for more than 90 days.

Safety Insert Tab - A numbered tab, applied to the Safety Certificate of Inspection, which indicates the month in which the Safety Certificate of Inspection expires.

School Bus - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Secretary - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Semitrailer - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Service Brake System - A brake system used for retarding, stopping and controlling the vehicle under normal operating conditions.

Side Marker Lamps - Lamps located on the left and right sides, beamed and intended to indicate vehicle length.

Snow Plow Lamp - A lamp used in substitution of headlamps on vehicles equipped with snow plows.

Special Mobile Equipment - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Specially Constructed Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Stop Lamp - A lamp at the rear of the vehicle which indicates the brake is being applied by the operator to slow or stop the vehicle.

Street Rod - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Subject Vehicle - A gasoline powered vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 9,000 pounds or less, moved upon a highway and registered or titled in a designated area, as defined in Chapter 177 (relating to Emission Inspection Program), except any of the following:

- (i) Special mobile equipment.
- (ii) An implement of husbandry.
- (iii) A motor vehicle being towed.
- (iv) A motor vehicle being driven or towed by an official inspection station owner or employee for the purpose of inspection.
- (v) A classic motor vehicle.
- (vi) An antique motor vehicle.
- (vii) A motorcycle.
- (viii) A motorized pedalcycle.

- (vix) A motor-driven cycle.
- (x) A street rod.
- (xi) A vehicle being repossessed by a financier or collector/repossessor through the use of a miscellaneous motor vehicle business registration plate.
- (xii) A new vehicle while they are in the process of manufacture including testing and not in transit from the manufacturer to a purchaser or dealer.
- (xiii) A military vehicle used for training by a private, nonprofit, tax exempt military educational institution when the vehicles do not travel on public roads in excess of 1 mile and when the property on both sides of the public road is owned by the institution.
- (xiv) A school bus over 11,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating.
- (xv) A bus, other than school bus, with a seating capacity of 27 or more.

Supply Line - The piping, tubing or hose, including all related fittings, through which vapor or liquid passes between the first shut-off valve at the container and the final stage regulator or vaporizer.

Suspend - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Tail Lamp - A steady burning low-intensity light used on the rear of a vehicle.

Taxi - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Temporary Inspection Approval Indicator - An adhesive insert affixed to the current certificate of safety inspection, as viewed from inside the vehicle, used to designate vehicles which have successfully passed a required periodic safety inspection, but do not display a renewed emission certificate of inspection.

Tire Width - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Trail - The distance measured in inches between the point at which the steering axis of a motorcycle intersects with the ground in front of the motorcycle and the point at which the forward limit of the wheel base intersects with the surface below the motorcycle.

Trailer - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Trailer Inspection Station - An inspection station appointed to inspect only trailers.

Tread - That portion of the tire that comes into contact with the road.

Tread Rib - The tread section running circumferentially around the tire.

Truck - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Truck-Camper - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Truck Tractor - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Turn Signals - A lamp showing to front and rear for the purpose of indicating an intention to turn either to the right or left or for pulling into traffic or changing lanes.

UL - The Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc.

Utility Trailer - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

(VIN) Vehicle Identification Number - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Vehicle - The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

Vehicle Inspection Division - The area of the Bureau which administers vehicle equipment and inspection matters.

175.3. Application of Equipment Rules.

Equipment rules apply to vehicles operated on a highway, unless specifically exempted by this chapter.

175.4. Vehicles Required to be Inspected

A registered vehicle moved upon a highway shall bear a valid certificate of inspection except for the following:

- (1) Special mobile equipment.
- (2) An implement of husbandry.
- (3) A motor vehicle being towed.
- (4) A motor vehicle being driven or a trailer being towed by an official inspection station owner or employee for the purpose of inspection.
- (5) A trailer having a registered gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less.
- (6) A motorized pedalcycle.
- (7) A vehicle being repossessed by a financier or collector-repossessor through the use of miscellaneous motor vehicle business registration plates.
- (8) A new vehicle while it is in the process of manufacture including testing, and not in transit from the manufacturer to a purchaser or dealer.
- (9) A military vehicle used for training by a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt military educational institution when the vehicle does not travel on public roads in excess of 1 mile and when the property on both sides of the public road is owned by the institution.
- (10) An antique vehicle.

175.5. Semiannual Inspection

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 the transportation of employees to or from their place of employment; and mass transit vehicles.

175.6. Annual Inspection

Other vehicles, including motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 pounds, motor homes, emergency vehicles and private noncommercial vehicles used to transport students, shall be inspected annually. Motor homes and emergency vehicles built on a truck chassis shall be inspected according to the appropriate truck inspection procedure based on the registered gross weight of the vehicle.

175.7. Inspection of Vehicle Reentering this Commonwealth

A vehicle subject to inspection which has been outside this Commonwealth continuously for 30 days or more and which, at the time of reentering this Commonwealth, does not bear a currently valid certificate of inspection, is not required to be inspected until 10 days after reentering this Commonwealth.

175.8. Newly-Purchased Vehicles

- (a) A vehicle which does not display a valid certificate of inspection at the time of sale, resale or entry into this Commonwealth shall be inspected within 10 days of sale, resale or entry into this Commonwealth, whichever occurs later. The inspection shall be coordinated with the staggered registration system regardless of the date of a previous inspection in this or another jurisdiction.
- (b) A vehicle which displays a valid certificate of inspection at the time of sale or resale may be driven until the inspection certificate expires.
- (c) Vehicles subject to semiannual inspection and mass transit vehicles are exempt from the provision of subsection (a) which requires coordination of inspection expiration with the staggered registration system.

175.9. Vehicles Registered in Another State

A vehicle registered in another state may be inspected. A certificate of inspection shall be issued only if the vehicle meets inspection requirements.

175.10. Vehicles Requiring Emission Inspection Due to Address Change

A subject vehicle required to participate in the Emission I/M Program because of vehicle registration change of address shall be phased into the emission inspection program at the time of the expiration of the current safety certificate of inspection.

175.11. Coordination of Safety and Emission Inspection

- (a) All subject vehicles required to participate in the Emission I/M Program shall display on the vehicle a renewed emission certificate of inspection prior to placement of a renewed safety certificate of inspection.
- (b) Upon successful completion of a safety inspection, a certificate of inspection may be affixed to the vehicle if the vehicle's emissions certificate of inspection is valid for more than 90 days from the date of the safety inspection.
- (c) If the emissions certificate of inspection will expire in less than 90 days from the date of the safety inspection, the vehicle shall receive a renewed emissions certificate of inspection prior to a renewed safety certificate of inspection being affixed.
- (d) A temporary inspection approval indicator may be used to designate vehicles which have successfully passed the required periodic safety inspection, but must display a renewed emission certificate of inspection, or obtain an official waiver, prior to placement of the renewed safety certificate of inspection.
- (e) Under this chapter, the expiring safety certificate of inspection may be replaced with a new safety certificate of inspection at any time prior to the expiration of the certificate of inspection to which the temporary inspection approval indicator is affixed. The temporary inspection approval indicator does not extend the inspection expiration of any certificate of inspection to which it is affixed.