ATTENTION: Official Inspection Stations, Quality Assurance Officers, and Pennsylvania State Police

BI19-01 Vehicle Inspection Division Bulletin January 2019

TOPICS IN THIS BULLETIN: Ornamental Lighting Inspection Procedure Clarification

The Honorable Tom Wolf signed Act 108 of 2018 into law in October of 2018. Effective December 24, 2018, this Act permits an illuminated sign approved by the Public Utility Commission or the Philadelphia Parking Authority to be displayed in vehicles associated with transportation network companies (e.g. Lyft, Uber). Subchapters E and F of PennDOT Publication 45 (Pennsylvania Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations) are amended to incorporate the provisions of Act 108 as set forth below.

Ornamental Lamps: Pub 45, Sections 175.66 and 175.96 Lighting and Electrical Systems; (h) (Ornamental Lamps) has been amended as follows:

A lamp not enumerated in this section and not located as described in Tables III, IV and V of this chapter, is prohibited unless it is available as original equipment. An illuminated sign is prohibited except on taxicabs, ambulances, trucks, and transportation network company vehicles. Transportation network vehicles may display an illuminated sign provided by a transportation network company within the interior of the vehicle so long as the sign is approved by the Public Utility Commission or The Philadelphia Parking Authority, as applicable, in accordance with 75 Pa.C.S. § 4307(c.1.) Flashing or revolving lights are not ornamental lamps.Provisions relating to flashing or revolving lights are in Chapters 15 and 173 (relating to authorized vehicles and special operating privileges; and flashing or revolving lights on emergency and authorized vehicles).


Clarification: 175.80 Inspection Procedure (a) External Inspection (10) Check for protruding metal and reject if torn metal, glass, or other loose or dislocated parts protrude from a surface of the vehicle to create a hazard.

PennDOT considers metal to be protruding if it projects from the surface of a vehicle in any direction whether in an outward, downward, inward, or upward manner. If the protruding metal creates a hazard, then the vehicle must be rejected for a safety inspection.

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