



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

**BI19-05**

**Vehicle Inspection Division Bulletin**

**July 2019**

**Topics in this Bulletin:**

**Adequate Exhaust Systems on Large Vehicles**

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This Bulletin replaces Safety Bulletin BI89-4 Subject #1; Adequate Exhaust Systems on Large Vehicles, interpretation of Sections 175.105(b)(1) and 175.110(d)(6)(i)

*Clarification:* A turbocharger is not considered a noise suppression system for purposes of Section 175.110 (d)(6)(i). Accordingly, a medium to heavy truck, bus or school bus equipped with a turbocharger but not a muffler would not meet the requirements of Sections 175.105(b)(1) and 175.110(d)(6)(i) and does not pass this inspection criteria.

*Background:* Safety Bulletin BI89-4 stated that the vehicle equipment and inspection regulations require that large vehicles shall be equipped with a muffler or other effective noise suppressing system (Section 175.105(b)(1)). The Bulletin indicated that turbochargers should be treated as a noise suppressing system. The Bulletin was based upon Federal Regulation 49 CFR 325.91(b), which required a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 pounds or greater to be “equipped with either a muffler or other noise dissipative device, such as a turbocharger (supercharger driven by exhaust gases).”

At the request of the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA), Federal Regulation 49 CFR 325.91(b) has been amended and the reference to a turbocharger being a noise dissipative device has been removed from Section 325.91(b). In their request to remove the language relating to a turbocharger, TMA indicated that it was “not aware of any other credible, satisfactorily performing, and commercially available exhaust noise dissipative device other than mufflers.” Accordingly, a turbocharger should no longer be treated as a noise suppressive device for purposes of Sections 175.105(b)(1) and 175.110(d)(6)(i).

If you have any questions, please contact the Vehicle Inspection Division at (717) 787-2895.

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