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

BI17-01 Vehicle Inspection Division Bulletin February 2017

TOPICS IN THIS BULLETIN:

Elimination of Semiannual Inspections of Heavy Trucks

We have received questions regarding the elimination of semiannual inspections of heavy trucks effective February 02, 2017. The questions, with answers, appear below.

**Question:** Why are semiannual inspections of motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs. being eliminated?

**Answer:** Act 165, which became law on November 04, 2016, amends the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Title 75 section 4702(B) (7), to no longer require a semiannual safety inspection for motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs. This change is effective February 02, 2017.

**Question:** Are semiannual inspections eliminated for all vehicles?

**Answer:** No, The following are still required to be inspected semiannually: 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 other than farm vehicles for which a biennial certificate of exemption has been issued are still required to be inspected semiannually.

**Question:** Can I inspect motor carrier vehicles at my station since they are no longer required to be inspected semiannually?

**Answer:** An official inspection station is ONLY authorized to inspect the types of vehicles designated on the station’s certificate of appointment (MV-427). Any changes on the types of vehicles inspected would need to be approved by PennDOT, and when approved, a new certificate of appointment would be issued to the station.

**Question:** Since semiannual inspections are no longer required for motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs., as a safety inspector with a class 1 inspector’s license, am I now able to inspect these vehicles annually?

**Answer:** No. Only a safety inspector certified to inspect Trucks over 17,000 lbs. can perform inspections on motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs.
Question: Can the inspections of these vehicles now be recorded in the same MV-431 form, “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Inspection Record,” with other vehicles that are inspected annually?

Answer: Yes. All annual inspections are to be recorded in the same MV-431 form, “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Inspection Record.”

Question: What type of certificate of inspection shall be affixed to a motor carrier vehicle with a registered weight in excess of 17,000 lbs.?

Answer: An annual certificate of inspection shall be affixed to the vehicle.

Question: Can a motor carrier vehicle with a registered weight in excess of 17,000 lbs. be inspected semiannually if the owner chooses?

Answer: Yes. However, upon passing the safety inspection, a new annual certificate of inspection with a 1-year insert from the date of inspection is to be affixed to the vehicle.

Question: May a semiannual certificate of inspection be affixed to a motor carrier vehicle with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 lbs. after February 02, 2017?

Answer: No. An annual certificate of inspection is to be affixed to the vehicle.

Question: Can I return unused semiannual certificates of inspection to PennDOT for a refund prior to my station audit?

Answer: No. Your Quality Assurance Officer (QAO) reconciles your sticker inventory as part of the audit at your station. PennDOT will refund 75% of the purchase price to the station for all unused stickers.

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

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