

ATTENTION: ALL OFFICIAL INSPECTION STATIONS

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICERS AND PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

BI09-1

SAFETY INSPECTION BULLETIN

January 2009

**TOPICS IN THIS BULLETIN:**

**License Plate Re-Issuance**

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Act 133 of 2008 eliminated the requirement for PennDOT to re-issue license plates every 10 years. The new law allows an authorized representative of the Department or law enforcement to determine if a license plate is illegible from a reasonable distance. Once this determination is made, the vehicle owner may request that the Department replace the registration plate with a standard issue plate, free of charge. All certified inspection mechanics have been appointed as a representative of the Department for the purpose of certifying a registration plate is illegible.

As a result, beginning January 26, 2009, it will be necessary for the certified inspection mechanics, during the vehicle's periodic inspection or upon request by the owner/registrant of the vehicle, to determine if the license plate is illegible from a reasonable distance. A license plate may be deemed illegible when one or more letters or numerals cannot be recognized from 50 feet. For those vehicles bearing an illegible license plate, we ask that you present the vehicle owner with one of the enclosed, postcards completed and signed by the inspection mechanic. The vehicle owner is then responsible for signing the postcard and returning the postcard to PennDOT in order to obtain a free replacement plate. If the plate you are recommending for replacement is a "personalized" license plate, please be sure to include any spaces or dashes in the proper location on the postcard. Please be advised that the detection of an illegible license plate is not in itself cause for rejection for the purpose of inspection. For specific rejection criteria, please reference the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations. An electronic version of these regulations may be found in the Business Partner Information Center on the Driver and Vehicle Services Web site, [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us), under the Station Owners and Mechanics link.

A fact sheet and frequently asked questions regarding this program are located on the reverse side of this bulletin. Additional postcards for the license plate re-issuance program may be obtained by requesting them on form MV-436A (Inspection Sticker and Insert Order Form). Until such time as the old forms are depleted and the current form is modified to accommodate the postcards, please write across the top of form MV-436A, **"Request License Plate Postcards."** Please call the Vehicle Inspection Division at 717-787-2895, if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Anita M. Wasko, Director  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles

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