

**ATTENTION: ALL OFFICIAL INSPECTION STATIONS
QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICERS AND PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE**

BI09-2

SAFETY INSPECTION BULLETIN

MARCH 2009

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Illegible License Plate Reissuance Program Q&As

Since January 26, 2009, when Act 133 of 2008 went into effect, PennDOT has received additional questions about the Illegible License Plate Reissuance Program.

Q. Is the replacement of defaced or damaged license plates treated differently than illegible plates?

A. Yes. A license plate that has been subjected to bending, tearing or cutting, or any condition other than normal wear is to be replaced using Section "B" of Form MV-44 along with a check or money order for \$7.50.

Q. Can online business partners or tag agents replace an illegible license plate under this program?

A. No. All requests for a free replacement plate under this program must be submitted to PennDOT for processing.

Q. Is PennDOT monitoring the program to ensure that only illegible (not defaced or damaged) license plates are being replaced for free?

A. Yes. PennDOT is reviewing each Authorization to Replace License Plate (MV-46) card in order to verify eligibility. If an MV-46 is questionable, applicants and inspection stations authorizing the replacement are contacted for additional information.

Inspection/Registration Coordination Reminder

As a reminder, effective January 30, 2005, safety and emission stickers were no longer required to coincide with the vehicle's registration expiration date. In Bulletin BI05-1, issued in January 2005, questions and answers were provided so that you can properly assign the expirations to any safety and/or emissions stickers issued. Please refer to that bulletin for questions you may have. Bulletin BI05-1 may be accessed via the Station Owners and Mechanics link under the Business Partner Information Center on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Program Services Web site, at www.dmv.state.pa.us. This does not apply to safety inspection stickers issued to motorcycles since expirations for motorcycles are prescribed in the Vehicle Code. As a result, Chart 4 (which can also be found at the link above) must be used when determining the proper inspection sticker expiration for motorcycles.

Headlight Aiming

Misaligned headlights are one of the most frequent complaints received from motorists. As a result, PennDOT is emphasizing the importance of headlight aiming, which is a required part of the inspection procedure. If stations have approved headlight aiming equipment as defined in the inspection regulations (Tools and Equipment), but cannot properly test or aim the headlights of certain makes/models of vehicles, they should not inspect those vehicles. Stations and mechanics should expect their Quality Assurance Officer to ask about the station's headlight aiming equipment during audits.

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Affixing Safety Inspection Stickers on Vehicles Requiring Emissions Inspection

Be reminded that a vehicle registered in a county requiring emissions inspections may not have a safety inspection sticker issued to it unless it displays a renewed emissions sticker. A renewed emissions sticker is one that expires more than 90 days from the date of the safety inspection. Vehicles registered in a county requiring an emissions inspection can be identified by the “Emissions Inspection Required” message on the vehicle’s registration.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Vehicle Inspection Division at 717-787-2895.

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