

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

**BI11-4**

**SAFETY INSPECTION BULLETIN**

**DECEMBER 2011**

**TOPIC(S) IN THIS BULLETIN:**

**LOW SPEED VEHICLES  
LICENSE PLATE REISSUANCE**

---

---

**LOW SPEED VEHICLES**

PennDOT has received requests from vehicle owners to title and register low speed vehicles for use on Pennsylvania highways. Low speed vehicles (LSVs) may comply with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 571.500 (relating to Low Speed Vehicles). However, this standard is not as comprehensive as the federal standards for traditional highway vehicles. Because LSVs are not built to the same federal standard as traditional highway vehicles, individual states can establish equipment standards for LSVs and determine whether or not to title and register these vehicles for highway use. In Pennsylvania, LSVs are required to meet all provisions of Subchapter E of the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations (related to passenger cars and light duty trucks). To date, PennDOT has not encountered any LSVs that are in compliance with the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations. Consequently, these vehicles cannot be titled and registered for operation on Pennsylvania roadways. Many LSVs lack required lighting, proper braking systems and are missing equipment that is required on traditional highway vehicles. At the present time, PennDOT will title LSVs as an off-road vehicle, making these vehicles ineligible for registration.

**LICENSE PLATE REISSUANCE**

As a reminder, inspectors should determine if a license plate is illegible during the vehicle's periodic safety inspection (or upon request by the vehicle owner/registrant). 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, please provide the vehicle owner with a completed Form MV-46, "Authorization to Replace License Plate" card signed by the inspection mechanic. The vehicle owner is then responsible for signing the postcard and returning it to PennDOT to obtain a free replacement plate. If the plate recommended 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.

Stations may obtain additional MV-46 forms by requesting them on form MV-436A (Inspection Sticker and Insert Order Form).

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

Anita M. Wasko, Director  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Kristen A. Singer, Manager  
Vehicle Inspection Division  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles