

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

**BI11-1**

**SAFETY INSPECTION BULLETIN**

**MAY 2011**

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

**FOG LIGHTS AND AUXILIARY DRIVING LIGHTS**

**RUST**

**RUSTED/PITTED BRAKE ROTORS**

**COORDINATION OF REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION**

**REPORTING STATION CHANGES**

**LICENSE PLATE REISSUANCE**

---

---

**FOG LIGHTS AND AUXILIARY DRIVING LIGHTS**

If a vehicle equipped with fog lights or auxiliary driving lights is presented for a safety inspection and one light is broken or inoperative, the vehicle fails the inspection. However, instead of making a repair, the vehicle owner may opt to remove the fog light or auxiliary driving light assemblies in order for the vehicle to successfully pass the safety inspection. Since fog lights and auxiliary driving lights are not required lighting, they may be removed if the vehicle owner so chooses.

**RUST**

If substantial rust is observed externally on a vehicle during a safety inspection, it should serve as an indicator for the inspector to look more closely at other areas of the vehicle (frame, flooring, etc.) as these areas may be compromised. The following would be cause for rejection under the passenger car and light truck inspection procedure: rust that permits exhaust gases to enter the passenger or cargo compartment; protruding metal, loose or dislocated parts protruding from the surface so as to create a hazard; bumpers that are rusted so they are not firmly attached or have broken or torn portions protruding so as to create a hazard; and frames that are not in solid condition. Inspectors should follow the specific inspection procedure for the type of vehicle being inspected to determine pass/fail conditions.

**RUSTED/PITTED BRAKE ROTORS**

The presence of rust or pitting on brake rotors, by itself, does not constitute a failure for the purpose of inspection. Inspectors should determine if rust is a temporary condition (surface rust) which sometimes results from the vehicle being parked for a period of time. In order to reject a vehicle for rusted/pitted rotors, the inspector must determine that the rust/pitting is causing diminished braking performance that prevents the vehicle from stopping within prescribed distances. If the rotors are above the minimum thickness and there is no rejectable scoring, the inspector may wish to note the rust/pitting on the customer's work order.

**COORDINATION OF REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION**

As a reminder, effective January 30, 2005, annually inspected vehicles are not required to have the expiration of the safety and emissions inspection stickers coordinated with the vehicle's registration expiration. Inspection expirations for motorcycles, vehicles with a temporary plate and semi-annual inspections were not affected by this change. Inspection personnel should use the guidelines below to determine the proper inspection expirations for annually inspected vehicles (safety or emissions):

- If there is no valid inspection sticker on the vehicle at the time of inspection, the inspecting mechanic should assign an inspection sticker valid for one year from the month of inspection. For example: If

an inspection is performed on a vehicle in May 2011, and there is no valid inspection sticker on the vehicle, the new inspection expiration will be May 2012.

- If the inspection sticker on the vehicle expires more than 90 days from the date of inspection, the inspecting mechanic should assign an inspection sticker valid for one year from the month of inspection. For example: If an inspection is performed on a vehicle in May 2011, and the inspection sticker currently on the vehicle expires in September 2011, the new inspection expiration will be May 2012.
- If the inspection sticker on the vehicle expires less than 90 days from the date of inspection, the inspecting mechanic should assign an inspection sticker that is valid for one year from the expiration month of the current sticker. For example: If an inspection is performed on a vehicle in May 2011, and the inspection sticker currently on the vehicle expires in June 2011, the new inspection expiration will be June 2012.
- Refer to Chart 1 (at [http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/inspections/safety\\_bulletins.shtml](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/inspections/safety_bulletins.shtml)) if a vehicle owner requests that their inspection expiration coincide with their registration expiration.

### REPORTING STATION CHANGES

Stations that have a change to their Certificate of Appointment (Form MV-427) should contact their Quality Assurance Officer (QAO) within five (5) days of the date the change occurs so the appropriate changes can be approved. Changes in ownership or location must be reported before they occur and inspections may not be performed until an application has been submitted and approved by PennDOT. All inspection station cancellations must be reported to your QAO so that a close out audit of your inspection records can be completed. The following changes must be reported to your QAO:

Change of ownership	Change of location	Change of authority
Change of trade name	Change of address by Post Office	Change of mailing address
Add/Delete station type	Add/Delete mailing address	Cancellation of station

### 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