

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

BI13-1

SAFETY INSPECTION BULLETIN

September 2013

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**ORDERING INSPECTION STICKERS**

Beginning October 1, 2013, the Department will be issuing the new 2014-15 safety and emissions inspection stickers. Between now and October 1, you should be careful not to order more stickers than necessary to perform annual inspections through December 31, 2013, and semi-annual inspections through June 30, 2014.

When placing an order for the new inspection stickers before October 1, 2013, **please mark “14-15” in large numbers ACROSS THE TOP of your MV-436A Inspection Sticker and Insert Order Form.** MV-436A forms that are not marked “14-15” will be considered a request for the current “13-14” inspection stickers. This applies to both safety and emissions stickers. **All MV-436A forms marked “14-15” WILL NOT be processed before October 1, 2013. Please allow 10 to 14 business days for all sticker orders.**

The 2014-15 stickers may be used if the current 2013-14 stickers are depleted before November 1, 2013. Once you begin to use the new “14-15” stickers, a separate MV-431 or MV-480 must be started. All stations that perform annual inspections should order new “14-15” stickers prior to November 1, 2013, for vehicles that have stickers expiring in January 2014. Please be aware that if inspection stickers are paid for with a bad check, your inspection privileges are subject to suspension in accordance with the schedule of penalties found in Section 175.51 of the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations.

**ILLEGIBLE LICENSE PLATES**

In an effort to ensure that illegible license plates are replaced, please provide the following updated information to all inspection personnel regarding how to determine if a license plate is illegible and should be replaced.

Previously, inspection personnel were asked to review license plates to determine if one or more of the numbers or letters cannot be recognized from 50 feet. However, additional criteria have been developed to further assist inspectors in identifying illegible license plates that should be replaced. Inspectors should continue to review license plates to determine if they are 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 numbers or letters cannot be recognized from 50 feet or if the plate shows any blistering, peeling, discoloration or loss of reflectivity.** As a reminder, an illegible license plate is not cause for rejection for the purpose of the safety inspection procedure.

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. Additional information regarding the replacement of illegible license plates can be found on PennDOT’s Driver and Vehicle Services website at [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us) by clicking on the *Motor Vehicle Information Center*, then *Illegible License Plate Replacement Information*.

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

**USE AND DISPLAY OF ILLUMINATED SIGNS**

In an effort to provide clarification, the display of a single “illuminated decal” in the corner of the rear window of a vehicle is not a basis for failing a safety inspection. As discussed here, an “illuminated decal” is a battery-powered device measuring no greater than six inches in width and six inches in height with an illumination source not designed to project light beyond the vehicle, but only to provide backlighting for a graphic. The display of an illuminated decal in this manner is specifically authorized in the Vehicle Code (75 Pa.C.S. §4307).

**COUNTY OF RESIDENCE FOR EMISSIONS TESTING**

By way of clarification, PennDOT uses a United States Postal Service approved software program when entering street addresses for vehicle registrations and drivers licenses. When zip codes cross county lines, some registration records can be coded to the incorrect county of residence. In order to correct these vehicle records, the Department works with the customer to manually adjust their vehicle records when the customer has shared the discrepancy. Customers may call PennDOT at 717-787-7709 and the Department will correct the record and send a corrected registration credential. If a station needs additional information or verification, they may contact the Station Operators hotline at 1-888-265-5909.

**BLUE DOT ILLUMINATION**

By way of clarification, Blue Dot Illumination is acceptable for motorcycles only, in accordance with 75 § 4310, Motorcycle Lighting. Auxiliary lighting may be added to a motorcycle to protect the driver, including blue dot illumination, standard bulb running lights, and light-emitting diode (LED) pods and strips.

**VEHICLE INSPECTION DIVISION PERSONNEL CHANGES**

Director Anita M. Wasko is pleased to announce that Ms. Kay Kishbaugh has been appointed as the Chief of the Vehicle Inspection Division.

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

Anita M. Wasko, Director  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Kay E. Kishbaugh, Chief  
Vehicle Inspection Division  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles