

## **- Frequently Asked Questions - Safety Inspection Program in the 42-Non I/M Counties**

Covers the following 42 counties:

Adams, Armstrong, Bedford, Bradford, Butler, Cameron, Carbon, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Elk, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lawrence, McKean, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

### **What type of inspection will be required in the 42 Non-I/M Emissions Counties?**

These counties will NOT be required to pass an emissions inspection. Rather, as part of the annual safety inspection, most passenger vehicles and light trucks weighing 11,000 pounds and less will be required to pass a Visual Anti-Tampering Check.

### **What is a Visual Anti-Tampering Check?**

The Visual Anti-Tampering Check is a visual inspection for the presence of emission control components that were installed on a vehicle by the manufacturer.

### **How is a Visual Anti-Tampering Check performed?**

A certified technician will look for the presence of the following emission control devices:

- Catalytic converter,
- Exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) valve,
- Positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) valve,
- Fuel inlet restrictor,
- Air pump, and
- Evaporative control system components such as vapor canisters and lines.

The certified technician will also determine if these devices are properly connected and if they are the correct type for the vehicle being inspected. These components may be original vehicle equipment or an equivalent aftermarket replacement component meeting the same standards. Only those components (listed above) that were part of the original certified vehicle configuration are subject to this portion of the inspection. If a component was not originally on a vehicle at the time of manufacturer, it will pass inspection without it.

### **What constitutes tampering?**

The rule of thumb when it comes to emissions systems is that any modification that changes the vehicle from a certified configuration to a non-certified configuration is considered tampering. This applies to both vehicle owners and repair facilities and is therefore a Federal offense. Replacing a catalytic converter with a straight pipe is one

traditional example of tampering. Likewise, overriding the OBD system through the use of high-tech defeat devices, non-certified computer chips, etc., would also be considered tampering.

**When will the remaining 42 Non-I/M Emissions Counties be required to begin this enhanced safety inspection program?**

The changes to the safety inspection program in these counties began on December 1, 2003.

**I just moved from a county that requires emissions inspections to a county that does not require emissions inspections. How do I get the emissions indicator message removed from my vehicle registration card?**

If you no longer live in a county that requires an emissions inspection you must complete Form MV-63, "Change of Address for Driver's License, Photo ID and Vehicle Registration." A change of address can also be completed online at [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us). Once PENNDOT processes and mails the new registration card to you the emissions indicator message will no longer appear.

**What should I do if my vehicle registration card says "Emissions Inspection Required/Diesel Vehicles Exempt" but I do not live in a county that requires emissions inspections?**

PENNDOT can issue corrected registration credentials for vehicle owners who live outside of an emissions-affected area, but have the emission indicator on their registration in error. Vehicle owners should complete Form MV-421, "Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program Verification" or contact the Vehicle Inspection Division at (717) 787-7709. Upon verification of home address and location by PENNDOT, a new registration card will be issued without the emissions indicator message.

**Are any vehicles in the 42 Non-I/M Emissions Counties exempt from the Enhanced Safety Inspection?**

Yes. Vehicles weighing over 11,000 pounds and vehicles currently exempt from a safety inspection. Vehicles registered as a classic or collectible vehicle will be exempt from only the anti-tampering portion of the safety inspection. Exemptions are determined by the vehicle registration or by a certified safety inspection mechanic.

**Can I get a waiver if my vehicle fails the Visual Anti-Tampering Check?**

No. Waivers will not be issued to vehicles that do not pass the Visual Anti-Tampering Check. Any modification that changes the vehicle from a certified configuration to a non-certified configuration is considered tampering and the vehicle would not pass the safety inspection.

**Why did I get less than one year (12 months) on my most recent safety inspection sticker?**

Pennsylvania law requires the safety inspection sticker expiration to coincide with the vehicle registration expiration. However, inspection facilities may not issue a safety inspection sticker which is valid for less than 6 months or more than 15 months. This most often happens when a customer purchases a vehicle and transfers an existing registration plate to the new vehicle.

**What should I do if I am out of Pennsylvania when my safety inspection expires?**

Pennsylvania law allows vehicle owners who are outside the Commonwealth for more than 30 continuous days, to have their vehicle inspected within 10 days upon their return to Pennsylvania. It is recommended that you carry documentation (such as receipts) supporting your absence for the previous 30 days.

**How can I obtain a Pennsylvania safety inspection manual?**

Copies of Pennsylvania's Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations can be purchased directly from PENNDOT. Requests for regulations should include a check or money order (made payable to Commonwealth of PA) for \$5.30 per copy payable to Commonwealth of PA (tax is included) and forward to the Vehicle Inspection Division, P.O. Box 68697, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8697.

**Will certified safety inspection stations be audited to ensure they are properly conducting the required inspections on vehicles?**

Yes. As it does in the current safety inspection program, PENNDOT will continue to conduct audits at each certified safety inspection station.

**How do I file a complaint against an official PENNDOT safety inspection station?**

Consumer complaints may be filed by contacting PENNDOT's Vehicle Inspection Division at (717) 787-2895.