

I/M Update

Pennsylvania Emissions Inspection Publication

INSPECTOR CONNECTION Improving Station Audits

As you know, the Pennsylvania Emissions Team (PET) conducts periodic performance audits at your station to determine whether inspectors are correctly performing tests and other required functions in accordance with the Emissions Program Regulations.

Being organized and keeping good records will help produce better station audits and enable station owners to more effectively operate their businesses.

The following items should be readily available for the Quality Assurance Officer (QAO) when he comes to audit your station:

- All sticker receipts.
- Current copy of the garage liability policy.
- Copies of all previous audits.

Voided Emissions Stickers – Voided emissions stickers must be stapled to the respective Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) and kept separate to be accounted for by the QAO.

Waivers – If waivers are authorized to be performed at the station, ALL waiver information should be kept separate and must include:

- The initial and retest failed VIR's.
- All applicable work orders and receipts for emissions-related repairs totaling at least \$150.
- Completed Repair Data Form.

Readiness and Parts Exceptions – All stations that have been granted permission to issue an exception must maintain the following documentation:

- Part Exception Form (PET 2-14) or Readiness Exception Form (PET 2-15).
- Copies of the VIR.
- All applicable work orders.
- Receipts associated with the exception.

IMPORTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Effective January 1, 2005, all 1979 model year subject vehicles registered in the 5-county Philadelphia and 4-county Pittsburgh regions were added to those subject vehicles requiring only a visual and gas cap test. After January 1, 2005, all 1975-1979 subject vehicles require the gas cap and visual test only. This is a change in the emissions test types for the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia regions in accordance with Chapter 177, Pennsylvania Emissions Inspection Program, Section 177.51 Program Requirements.
- The EPA has determined that a transmission code failure is an emissions-related failure and must be treated as such.
- During an OBD inspection, if you are experiencing a non-communication issue with the test vehicle, you should check fuses and make sure all accessories have been turned off. Be sure to follow the screen prompts on the analyzer.
- Current model year subject vehicles never before registered in Pennsylvania or any other jurisdiction, which have less than 5,000 miles on the odometer, are exempt from testing and are eligible for a new car exemption.
- Proof of insurance is not required for emissions tests; however, a valid registration is.





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Circulate to:

- Shop Foreman
- Service Manager
- Service Advisor
- Emissions Inspector
- Technician

Call the Station Operator Hot Line: 1-888-265-5909

For answers or help with:

- Enrollment into the Emissions Program.
- Network connections & operations.
- Analyzer problems, user ID, password and system access.
- VIID application problems.
- VIID database problems.
- Readiness Issues.

You or your customers may call the Customer Hot Line: 1-800-265-0921

For answers or help with:

- Waivers
- Exemptions
- Complaints
- General program information

Visit us on the web at
www.drivecleanpa.state.pa.us

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q:** How should I test a vehicle if there is no gas cap adapter produced for the vehicle being tested?
- A:** When asked if the gas cap fits the adapter, you should answer "NO" to the question. You can then follow the prompts and proceed through the test.
Note: Stations are required to possess and use all available gas cap adapters.

- Q:** What if a required emissions component is no longer available?
- A:** Stations or motorists will need to provide two forms of written documentation, one from a dealership and one from a parts supplier, stating that the part is no longer available. When this information is obtained, the station should call the PET regional office for verification and further instruction.

You Should Know....

- Coordination of inspection and registration no longer required – Effective January 30, 2005, safety and emissions stickers are no longer required to coordinate with the vehicle's registration expiration date. Reference: PennDOT Safety Inspection Bulletin BI05-1.
- Matching Safety and Emissions Stickers – If a customer wants the safety and emissions stickers on their vehicle to match, it is the customer's decision which sticker expiration will be adjusted. However, the sticker assigned as a result of the adjustment cannot be valid for less than 6 months or more than 12 months. This rule only applies when a customer wants their safety and emissions stickers on their vehicle to match. If a customer comes in with an inspection sticker on the vehicle that expires more than 90 days from the date of the 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 2005, and the inspection sticker on the vehicle currently expires in September 2005, the new inspection expiration will be May 2006.
- Internet Inspection Renewal – The temporary internet registration credential is a valid document for the purpose of inspection. Please follow the guidelines provided in PennDOT Bulletin BI05-1 when inspecting a vehicle with a temporary internet registration credential. 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 the inspection. For example: If an inspection is performed on a vehicle in May 2005, and there is no valid inspection sticker on the vehicle, the new inspection sticker expiration will be May 2006.