



**ATTENTION: Official Inspection Stations, Quality Assurance Officers,
and Pennsylvania State Police**

BI23-01

Vehicle Inspection Division Bulletin

February 2023

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Delivery Notification for Inspection Sticker Deliveries

Various mail carriers offer a free delivery notification service that will notify you when packages are mailed to your business. Stations are encouraged to sign up for these delivery services, so you are notified when sticker orders or other packages are delivered to your station. The links to the services are below:

- UPS – <https://wwwapps.ups.com/doapp/signupmychoice>
- USPS – <https://reg.usps.com/portal/register>
- FedEx – <https://www.fedex.com/en-us/delivery-manager.html>
- DHL Express – <https://mydhl.express.dhl/us/en/forms/open-account.html>

Trailer Inspections

Pursuant to 175.4 of the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations, all trailers over 3,000 pounds must bear a valid certificate of inspection. For an Official Inspection Station to inspect trailers, the station must have an inspection area with the minimum dimensions of 12 feet wide by 55 feet long and be approved by the Department for trailer inspections. In addition to all inspection area requirements in the regulations, if the inspection area or any part is located outside the building, which is permitted for trailer inspection stations, the area shall be kept clear of snow or other substances which would curtail or interfere with inspections.

The Official Inspection Station must have at least one inspection mechanic that is certified to inspect trailers. The station must record trailer inspections on Form MV-480 and have an ammeter-low range type in addition to all the other required tools.

Blue Lights on Tow Trucks

Due to recent amendments to Section 4572.1 of the Vehicle Code, relating to flashing or revolving lights on tow trucks, tow trucks may now be equipped with one or more flashing or revolving yellow lights and one or more flashing or revolving blue lights. The blue lights shall be equipped only in the rear of the

vehicle and may operate only while the tow truck is stationary on the side of the road or highway while responding to a disabled vehicle.

A tow truck shall not operate with blue lights at any time while the tow truck is in motion. Flashing or revolving lights and their use are also addressed in Chapters 15 and 173 (relating to authorized vehicles and special operating privileges; and flashing or revolving lights on emergency and authorized vehicles) of 67 PA Code.

Pulsating Stop Lamps

The Vehicle Inspection Division receives inquiries regarding passenger cars and light trucks that have pulsating stop lamps. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108 requires stop lamps to be steady burning. For safety inspection purposes a stop lamp that is not steady burning would be rejectable under 175.80 (a)(9): Check the lamps and lenses and reject if one or more of the following apply (i) An exterior bulb or sealed beam, if originally equipped or installed, fails to light properly, except ornamental lights.

This same criteria would also apply to medium and heavy trucks, buses and school buses through 175.110 (a)(9)(i). Should the FMCSA issue an exemption to this requirement, we have determined that would supersede the inspection regulations. We recently published guidance to safety stations regarding FMCSA exemptions in the September 2022 bulletin:

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Exemptions

If a motor-carrier vehicle is inspected with equipment installed that does not comply with the Pennsylvania Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations, it should not be rejected for an inspection if there is an approved exemption request from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). See 75 Pa. C.S. § 4103(b) (relating to applicability of Federal Standards). These FMCSA exemptions can be found at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents. Also, should you have questions on whether an exemption applies, feel free to call the Station Mechanic Unit at 717-787-2895.

Tinted Registration Plate Covers

Due to a recent amendment to Section 1332(b) of the Vehicle Code, relating to obscuring registration plates, it is now unlawful to display on any vehicle a registration plate which has a tinted plate cover. In accordance with the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations, vehicles subject to safety inspections should be rejected as part of the external inspection if the license plate is obscured so that numbers cannot be identified. The Department's interpretation is that a tinted plate cover obscures the registration plate so that numbers cannot be identified and therefore should be rejected.

Copies of previous Safety Bulletins are available to view online at www.dmv.pa.gov/safetybulletins.

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