



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

BI26-01

Vehicle Inspection Division Bulletin

September 2026

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ILLUMINATED SIGNS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

In accordance with The Fiscal Code, as amended by Act 45 of 2025 on November 12, 2025, Article XVI-Q.2 (Public Transportation Vehicles), Section 1601-Q.2 (Illuminated Signs) reads as follows:

(a) Permission – A public transportation vehicle may carry on the rear or side of the vehicle illuminated signs, or surfaces designed to be illuminated signs, placed so as not to interfere with the vision of the driver through the rear window, if any, of the vehicle. Illuminated signs, or surfaces designed to be illuminated signs, shall be of a size and type designed not to interfere with or unduly distract drivers of other vehicles on the highway. The sign or surface shall include features that enhance road safety, including enhanced turn signals and brake lights, by connecting the sign or surface to a vehicle operation indicator. The sign or surface shall be able to communicate with the public through real-time, geofenced and global positioning system enabled technology by providing information and advertising to the public, including public service announcements and emergency alerts. The size and placement of the sign or surface must receive approval of the department or be a type approved by the department prior to use on the vehicle.

Definitions. — As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

‘Public transportation vehicle.’ A vehicle used for public passenger transportation or as part of a transportation system under 74 Pa.C.S. Chapters 15 (relating to sustainable mobility options) and 17 (relating to metropolitan transportation authorities), operated by or under agreement with a public entity. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicles operated by airports, port authorities, public transit agencies, State-owned or State-related institutions, or other Federal, State, county, or local government entities or agencies. The term includes a bus, light rail or train, but does not include a school bus or vehicle used for charter or sightseeing services.

A public transportation vehicle, as defined above, may not be rejected during a safety inspection for carrying these signs, provided the vehicle meets the requirements outlined in subsection (a) above.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION EXEMPTIONS

If a motor-carrier vehicle is inspected with equipment that does not comply with the Pennsylvania Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations, it should not be rejected during a safety inspection if there is an approved exemption request from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

This aligns with 75 Pa.C.S. § 4103(b) (relating to the applicability of Federal standards). Valid FMCSA exemptions can be verified directly on the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Exemptions Portal at <https://cvsa.org/inspections/exemptions/>.

For questions regarding whether a specific exemption applies to a vehicle, contact the Station Mechanic Unit at 717-787-2895.

PRINTED SAFETY INSPECTION RECORDS

The regulations under 67 Pa. Code § 175.29(a)(4), Obligations and Responsibilities of Stations, require the owner of an inspection station to keep inspection records and required work orders available for examination and audit by Quality Assurance Officers (QAOs) and other authorized persons. Furthermore, section 175.42(c), Recording Inspection, requires the station to retain the original official inspection report sheet (Form MV-431 or MV-480) as a garage record, kept on file at the station for audit. At the close of each inspection period, the official inspection report sheet shall be placed in the station's files, even if all spaces have not been used, and a new inspection report sheet shall be started for the new inspection period. Additionally, a work order signed by the inspecting mechanic must be available for inspection upon request by a QAO or an authorized representative of the Department.

These sections require stations to print hard copies of work orders and MV-431 records or, if using e-SAFETY, the Safety Inspection Report (SIR), and to have them readily available for audit. QAOs will not attempt to audit safety inspection records stored on the station's computer system. This applies regardless of whether the MV-431 forms and work orders were handwritten and then scanned into the computer or typed and entered using an electronic data collection and storage program. All hard copies of safety inspection records must be printed and retained on-site prior to the audit. The QAO will not delay the audit or wait for the records to be printed during the audit.

REPORTING LOST, DAMAGED, OR STOLEN INSPECTION CERTIFICATES

In accordance with **67 Pa. Code § 175.29(e)(1)**, official inspection stations are required to immediately report any damaged, lost, or stolen certificates of inspection. The regulation states:

The following events shall be reported at once to the inspection station supervisor and the Bureau; however, it is not necessary to discontinue inspections: (1) Whenever certificates of inspection are damaged, lost or stolen.

Stations must promptly notify both their assigned QAO and/or the VID whenever an inspection sticker purchased by the station is damaged, lost, or stolen. This notification must occur **immediately** and shall **not** be delayed until the time of audit.

Failure to report damaged, lost, or stolen stickers **immediately** may result in sanctions for the station.

Please note that **notification to local law enforcement is not required** under the current regulations. If needed, the Vehicle Inspection Division (VID) will coordinate with law enforcement following an administrative investigation, which includes an attestation from the station detailing the circumstances surrounding the incident.

To report damaged, lost, or stolen stickers, please contact the Inspection Sticker Unit at 717-705-2182 or your assigned QAO.

2027-2028 CAMPAIGN INSPECTION STICKERS ARE AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1, 2026

Between now and October 1, 2026, you should be careful not to order more inspection stickers than necessary to perform annual inspections through December 31, 2026, and semi-annual inspections through June 30, 2027. Please manage your sticker inventory to ensure you have sufficient 2026-2027 inventory to last through December 2026 or until you receive your 2027-2028 stickers. 2027-2028 stickers may be used simultaneously with the 2026-2027 stickers. 2026-2027 stickers may be used for inspections on vehicles with expiry dates up to December 2026. 2027-2028 stickers are needed by November 1st for vehicles with a January 2026 expiry. Once you begin to use the new 2027-2028 stickers, a separate MV-431 or MV-480 must be started.

Please plan your inventory to allow up to 14 business days for delivery of your inspection sticker orders.

Please be aware that if your payment is made with a check returned for insufficient funds, your inspection privileges are subject to suspension in accordance with the schedule of penalties found in section 175.51 (specifically 67 Pa. Code § 175.51(a)(4)(vi)) of the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations.

Online Inspection Sticker Orders

Online ordering of **2027-2028 safety or emissions inspection stickers begins October 1, 2026**. Please do not place online orders for 2027-2028 safety or emissions inspection stickers prior to October 1, 2026. All orders processed prior to October 1, 2026, will receive 2026-2027 safety and emissions inspection stickers.

Ordering Inspection Stickers by Mail

For stations that wish to continue ordering through the mail, you may place your mail-in orders now for 2027-2028 safety or emissions inspection stickers. **If you wish to order 2027-2028 safety or emissions inspection stickers, please write 2027-2028 in large numbers across the top left of your MV-436A Inspection Sticker and Insert Order Form.** Unless you indicate **2027-2028** at the top left of the form, your order will be processed for 2026-2027 stickers. MV-436A forms marked 2027-2028 will not be processed before October 1, 2026.

Reminders:

- **Please note that when ordering stickers, they are ordered by sheets, not by individual stickers. Each sheet contains 10 stickers. For example, 4 sheets of emission stickers equal 40 stickers. Your order may be rejected for excessive quantities. Please review your order before submitting to ensure the order is correct.**
- **2026-2027 campaign stickers in the AI, IM and AO series cannot be used for any reason after December 31, 2026.**
- **2026-2027 SI stickers may be used until June 30, 2027.**
- **2027-2028 stickers must be used for AI, IM and AO series starting January 1, 2027.**
- **All stickers purchased on or after October 1, 2026, will be 2027-2028 campaign stickers.**
- **2026-2027 campaign stickers will no longer be available for purchase on or after October 1, 2026.**
- **Inserts are ordered by the pack and should be ordered in conjunction with stickers orders. Each insert pack contains 50 inserts. Quantities may be adjusted at the discretion of PennDOT.**

STATION'S INSPECTION PORTAL INFORMATION UPDATE REMINDER

Keeping your station information updated on our Inspections Portal is required, particularly as changes occur. This allows the Department to contact you when needed. We are asking you to take a few minutes to review and update your station's current information by navigating to the Inspection Portal (<https://inspections.penndot.pa.gov>) and selecting My Station.

A valid email address is required for all new stations; however, in addition to ensuring all station information is correct in the Portal, we are also requesting all current stations also update the email address currently on file. The pencil icon to the right of "Address and Contact Details" can be used to update this information.

If you have any questions please or you are having trouble access the Inspections Portal, please contact our Station Mechanic Unit at 717-787-2895 or ra-pd7173464722@pa.gov. Our business hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

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

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