



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

R26-01

Vehicle Inspection Division Bulletin

September 2026

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Vehicle Body Panel Color

The purpose of an enhanced inspection is to verify that a salvaged vehicle has been properly repaired. Vehicle color does not affect safety. Body panels painted with automotive grade paint are considered to comply with manufacturer specifications regardless of color. Under PUB 645, reconstructed vehicles must meet manufacturer specifications, including appearance; however, vehicles presented for enhanced inspection should not fail solely for minor paint defects such as small rock chips, particularly because these vehicles are often older and may reasonably show normal age-related wear. If an enhanced inspector determines that the vehicle panels are no longer structurally sound or show other safety concerns, then the vehicle should fail the enhanced safety inspection. This guidance supersedes any guidance previously provided on this subject.

Hail Damage Inspection Guidance

Vehicles that are salvaged due to minor hail damage may not always require the vehicle to have repairs completed. During the enhanced inspection, the damage should be noted by the inspector, who will make a determination whether the damage affects the structural integrity of the vehicle. All damaged glass will need to be replaced. The inspector should also pay close attention to the crush points of the vehicles such as the A-pillar as well as doors to ensure they are functioning properly and sealing as designed when closed to ensure occupants are safe during operation of the vehicle. If any hail damage has not been repaired and affects the structural integrity of the vehicle, the vehicle should fail the enhanced inspection.

VIN Issuance for Manufactured Vehicles and Trailers

If an originally manufactured vehicle or trailer is missing the public VIN plate, a replacement VIN plate can be requested by completing an MV-41. Manufactured vehicles/trailers are not considered specially constructed.

Ownership Verification Required

Vehicles presented for enhanced inspection require ownership verification as a title will be produced based on the documents presented for the inspection. The inspection mechanic is

required to ensure proper ownership of the vehicle presented is verified. All documents need to be signed prior to the inspection to show the correct owner of the vehicle. This includes the Title, Bill of Sale (if required) and the MV-426B once completed by the inspector. For a list of required documents refer to PUB 645.

Photo Requirements

The station grounds must be in the background of all photographs, and the actual building must be in at least one; the OIS sign is not required. Photographs must be in color; it is recommended the station has a designated area that all photographs are taken. The vehicle does not need to be moved for every photograph to ensure the station building is in the background of every photograph. Photographs must clearly show all sides of the vehicle and cannot be taken at an angle; no portion of the vehicle can be cut off in the photograph. Each photograph must be signed and dated by the inspection mechanic. Photographs must be original and not altered in any way.

Additionally, any Enhanced Station with a contract date of February 13, 2025 or after must have the time and date stamped added by the camera on the photograph. Using an application to add these items after the photo has been taken is not an approved method of achieving this requirement. A VIN photograph must also be submitted. These requirements are in addition to the requirements listed in the paragraph above.

Resources

There are many resources available for vehicle related processes in the Commonwealth of PA to include fact sheets, publications, and frequently asked questions pages. These resources are available at the links below. It is important that stations and inspectors do the research required for the vehicle they are inspecting to understand what documents are required and what the equipment standards are for that inspection prior to completing any inspection.

Inspection Resources can be found at the following location – www.pa.gov/agencies/dmv - Click on Vehicle Services then Inspection and Safety Requirements. The link to the Safety Inspection Program will provide you with safety inspection resources, including Pub 45. The Enhanced Vehicle Safety Inspections link will provide you with enhanced safety inspection resources, including Pub 645 and numerous fact sheets for the various types of vehicles required to receive an enhanced safety inspection.

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

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