



‘Two Steps, One Sticker’ to change Vehicle Inspections for Emissions Stations

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is providing this communication to you as a notification of a significant change to the Vehicle Inspection Program, effective March 1, 2015. The 83rd Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2305, which replaces the current dual certificate system for inspection and registration with one certificate, the registration decal. This one decal will signify the vehicle has passed the required inspection and is currently registered in this state.

Overview

HB 2305 establishes a registration-based enforcement system for

enforcing for motor vehicle inspection requirements. Before a vehicle may be registered or its registration renewed, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or a county assessor-collector must verify the vehicle passed the required inspection, as indicated in the DPS Vehicle Inspection database. If the database information is not available, the vehicle owner may present a passing Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) issued for the vehicle. The vehicle must be inspected within 90 days of the registration expiration date, or 180 days for a used vehicle sold by a dealer.

The bill requires DMV or the county tax assessor-collector to collect the state portion of the inspection fee at the time



of registration and registration renewal. This amount is the fee the inspection station currently pays for an

inspection certificate. When certificates are retired, that amount will be collected by DMV or the county tax assessor - collector during registration/renewal. Inspection stations will continue to collect the inspection fee – less the state portion of the fee – at the time of inspection. See the attached chart for detailed information.

HB 2305 also creates the requirement for a vehicle fueled by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to have the expiration date of the cylinder verified as a prerequisite to inspection. The procedure for this requirement will be provided to the stations in a separate communications and by the DPS Field Auditor.



Vehicle Inspection Changes

Inspection Stations

- Beginning March 1, 2015, stations will no longer issue inspection certificates. All inspections will produce a VIR – pass or fail, which will be given to the motorist with the results of the inspection.
 - Not a new requirement for emissions inspection stations.
 - For stations using VIC Units, this will require the station to use a printer.
 - For VIC stations, the inspector will need to sign the VIR. This is currently the process for the emission inspections, so this is not a change for the emissions process.
- Price charged by the station for inspections will change as the station will no longer collect the state portion of the fee.

Motorist Information

Step One

Pass a vehicle inspection and retain the vehicle inspection report issued by the station.

Step Two

Renew your annual registration by mail, online or in person, and your inspection status will be verified electronically. A passing inspection is required for registration.

If your vehicle passed inspection, but the system is unable to electronically verify it, simply present your valid, passing inspection report (VIR) at the time of registration.

(Inspection Changes continued)

- Stations will no longer be required to purchase inspection certificates.
- Eliminates VI-30 – HB 2305 requires DMV or county tax assessor - collector to verify passing inspection in the DPS database before registration for out-of-state vehicles.

Inspection Sequence

- Remove process to enter inspection certificate and VI-30, change how fees are displayed
- Inspection data will be sent to TCEQ and to a database for DMV to use in registration
- VIR changes:
 - Include verbiage for VIN verification to replace VI-30
 - Include Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation information for commercial inspections
 - Include the breakdown of state / station fees
 - Passing commercial VIR will have an expiration date

How will vehicle registration work?

Current Registration Process

- Ninety (90) days prior to registration expiration, DMV sends a renewal notice to the consumer
- The renewal notice breaks out the registration fee, any local (county) fees, and mailing fees.
- Renewals can be done through the mail, in person at the county or a contract location, or online.

First Year (March 2015 through February 2016)

- To avoid the possibility of a motorist having to obtain two inspections in a 12-month period, DMV, TCEQ and DPS have agreed that for the first year of the program, a vehicle having a current (unexpired) vehicle inspection at time of registration will be allowed to register. This will facilitate syncing of the registration and inspection expirations within the 90 day window in the second year.
- Commercial vehicles will continue to follow the current annual inspection requirement, and will not be affected by the 90 day registration window.
- DMV will continue to send the renewal notice in advance of registration expiration.
- DMV Renewal notice generation will query the data

system to determine state portion of the inspection fees.

- DMV Renewal notices will now contain a line item for state portion of the inspection fees.

Second Year (March 2016 going forward)

- All vehicles, with the exception of those required to obtain a FMCSR (Commercial) inspection, will be required to obtain a passing inspection within 90 days of their registration expiration.
- All else, as stated above, will continue to apply with respect to the registration process.

Key Points

- No changes to current process until March 1, 2015. Stations will continue to issue certificates through the last working day of February 2015.
- Stations may obtain a refund for unused certificate inventory after March 1, 2015.
- VIC inspection stations will be required to have a printer and consumables, such as paper and ink cartridges.
- VIC contractor will continue to support existing VIC printers and provide a list of approved printers for station purchase from local retail outlets.

DPS will continue to provide information with respect to this program change as it becomes available. Compliance and Enforcement Field Audit personnel will continue to support station operations in the field and will advise stations when field training for inspectors becomes available.

Thank you for your continued support of the **Vehicle Inspection Program**.