



Tonry Topics

NEW MASSACHUSETTS VEHICLE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

What vehicles need to be inspected?

All vehicles that are registered in Massachusetts must receive a safety inspection each year. Vehicles listed below must also receive an on-board diagnostic (OBD) emissions test each year:

- Model year 1996 and newer passenger cars, trucks and SUVs, as well as 2008 and newer medium-duty vehicles
- Model year 1997 and newer light-duty diesel vehicles (weighing 8,500 pounds or less)
- Model year 2007 and newer medium-duty diesel vehicles (weighing 8,501 to 14,000 pounds)

Beginning in April 2009, opacity tests for visible smoke from heavy-duty diesel vehicles (weighing more than 10,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating or "GVWR") will resume. This test started in 2002, but was suspended in August 2008 to allow for transition to the new Massachusetts Vehicle Check Program.

What vehicles are exempt from emissions testing?

The following types of motor vehicles are exempt from the emissions inspection:

- Cars, trucks and SUVs manufactured before model year 1996 no longer receive tailpipe emissions tests but fail their safety inspections if they produce visible smoke.
- Light duty diesel vehicles (weighing less than 8,500 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, or "GVWR") that were either manufactured before model year 1997 or are 15 or more model years old
- Medium duty diesel vehicles (up to 10,000 pounds GVWR) that were either manufactured before model year 2007 or are 15 or more model years old
- Medium duty non-diesel vehicles either manufactured before model year 2008 or 15 or more model years old
- New vehicles delivered to Massachusetts owners

- Motorcycles and mopeds
- Tactical military vehicles
- Vehicle operated exclusively by electric power

Vehicles that are registered but designed primarily for off-road use do not receive emissions tests. Examples of this type of vehicle include:

- All "tracked" vehicles
- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- Articulated loaders/haulers
- Backhoes
- Bulldozers
- Cranes
- Excavators
- Loaders
- Mobile hydraulic platform lifters
- Motor graders
- Pavers
- Self-contained street-sweepers, maximum capable-speed of 20 mph, such as a three-wheeled vehicle (does **not** include on-road vehicles with street sweeping equipment installed as cargo; such vehicles are subject to emissions inspections)
- Skid-steer loaders
- Tractors and off-road equipment used for farming (does **not** include pickup trucks, state trucks, tractor trailers and other vehicles designed for road use with farm registration plates; such vehicles are subject to emissions inspections)

What are the inspection fees?

Non-Commercial Inspection: \$29.00

Commercial Inspection: \$29.00 plus the market hourly shop rate charged by the station for the time spent performing the inspection.

Criteria for vehicles that must have the state's new commercial motor vehicle inspection

Commercial Motor Vehicle shall mean any motor vehicle that is not a private passenger motor vehicle, antique motor car, motorcycle, auto home, house trailer, taxicab, ambulance, hearse, livery vehicle, or school pupil transport vehicle. A commercial motor vehicle shall include the following vehicles:

- The vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds; or
- The vehicle is designed to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver; or
- The vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding in accordance with the Hazardous Materials Regulations of the United States Department of Transportation. Any commercial motor vehicle that singularly has a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 pounds or less and is designed to meet emissions standards, shall be submitted for an emissions inspection in addition to all applicable safety inspection requirements; or
- A single, full or semi-trailer, used in commerce, with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating over 3,000 lbs; or
- Any vehicle that has a vehicle weight, or curb weight, of more than six thousand pounds, as per the manufacturer's description of said vehicle, unless such vehicle is a sport utility vehicle or passenger van, or a pickup truck or cargo van meeting the definition of private passenger vehicle; or
- Any vehicle that has five or more wheels on the ground.



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- **Class D** - Conducts all commercial and non-commercial light, medium and heavy duty inspections of all vehicles including all trailers, semi-trailers and converter dollies.
- **Class E** - Conducts heavy duty commercial inspection of vehicles over 26,000 lbs. (GVWR), including all trailers, semi-trailers and converter dollies.
- **Class F** - Conducts mobile inspections for commercial vehicles of all fuel types and weights, including all trailers, semi-trailers and converter dollies, owned or leased by a fleet.

Following is a list of license plate types and the corresponding inspection type.

For additional information, please contact your account handler at (617) 773-9200. Albert J. Tonry & Co., Inc., Crown Colony Office Park, 300 Congress Street, Quincy, MA 02169. www.tonry.com

Inspection station classes and the vehicles those stations will inspect

Station Class License types indicate what type of vehicle the station can inspect. Be sure and check to make sure the inspection station you choose is equipped to inspect your type of vehicle.

- **Class A** - Conducts non-commercial light duty gas and diesel inspections of vehicles 10,000 lbs (GVWR) or less.
- **Class B** - Conducts commercial and non-commercial light and medium duty gas and diesel inspections of vehicles 26,000 lbs. (GVWR) or less, including light-duty pole or pull trailers only.
- **Class C** - Conducts all commercial medium and heavy duty inspections of vehicles over 10,000 lbs. (GVWR), including all trailers, semi-trailers and converter dollies.

Plate Type	Safety <=10,000 GVWR	Safety >10,000 GVWR
AHN – Auto Home/ Camper	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
AHR – Auto Home/Camper	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
AHV – Auto Home/Camper	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
APN – Apportioned/IRP	Commercial	Commercial
APR – Apportioned/IRP	Commercial	Commercial
AMN – Ambulance	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
AMR – Ambulance	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
ARN – Transit Authority ¹	Non-Commercial	Commercial
AXN – Transit Authority	Motorcycle (Authority)	N/A
BDN – Boat Dealer	>3,000lbs. GVWR, Commercial inspection. >10,000 lbs. GCVWR, Commercial inspection	>3,000lbs. GVWR, Commercial inspection. >10,000 lbs. GCVWR, Commercial inspection
BUN – Bus	Commercial	Commercial
BUR – Bus	Commercial	Commercial
BUV – Bus	Commercial	Commercial
CON – Commercial	Non-Commercial ²	Commercial
COR – Commercial	Non-Commercial ²	Commercial
COV – Commercial	Non-Commercial ²	Commercial
FAN – Farm	Non-Commercial ²	Commercial
LVN – Livery	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
LVR – Livery	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
LVV – Livery	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
MCN – Motorcycle	Motorcycle	N/A
MCR – Motorcycle	Motorcycle	N/A
MCS – Motorcycle	Motorcycle	N/A
MCV – Motorcycle	Motorcycle	N/A
MVN – Municipal ¹	Non-Commercial	Commercial
MXN – Municipal ¹	Motorcycle	N/A
OCN – Owner-Contractor	Non-Commercial ²	Commercial
PAN – Passenger	Non-Commercial	Commercial ³
PAR – Passenger	Non-Commercial	Commercial ³
PAS – Passenger	Non-Commercial	Commercial ³
PAV – Passenger	Non-Commercial	Commercial ³
PAY – Year of Manufacture	Non-Commercial	Commercial ³
RPN – Repair	Non-Commercial ²	Commercial
RPV – Repair	Non-Commercial ²	Commercial
SBN – School Bus	Commercial	Commercial
SBR – School Bus	Commercial	Commercial
SMN – Semi-Trailer	Commercial	Commercial
SMR – Semi-Trailer	Commercial	Commercial
SPN – School Pupil	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
STN – State ¹	Non-Commercial	Commercial
SXN – State	Motorcycle (State)	N/A
TAN – Taxi	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial
TAR – Taxi	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial

TPN – Transporter	>3,000lbs. GVWR, Commercial inspection. >10,000 lbs. GCVWR, Commercial inspection	>3,000lbs. GVWR, Commercial inspection. >10,000 lbs. GCVWR, Commercial inspection
TRN – Trailer	>3,000lbs. GVWR, used in commerce, Commercial inspection. >10,000 lbs. GCVWR used in commerce, Commercial inspection	>3,000lbs. GVWR, used in commerce, Commercial inspection. >10,000 lbs. GCVWR used in commerce, Commercial inspection
TRR – Trailer	>3,000lbs. GVWR, used in commerce, Commercial inspection. >10,000 lbs. GCVWR used in commerce, Commercial inspection	>3,000lbs. GVWR, used in commerce, Commercial inspection. >10,000 lbs. GCVWR used in commerce, Commercial inspection
VPN – Vanpool	Non-Commercial	Non-Commercial

¹ If vehicle type is trailer, and GVWR is <=3,000lbs, trailer exempt from inspection. If > 3,000lbs. GVWR, Commercial inspection.

² If a placarded vehicle, Commercial inspection. If GCVWR will exceed 10,000 lbs., Commercial inspection.

³ If body type is pickup, SUV, or van, non-commercial inspection.