Commercial Vehicle Enforcement ★ Criminal Investigation ★ Administrative Investigation ★ EST. 1927 ★
INSPECTOR
MOTOR VEHICLE
DEPARTMENT
VT

VERMONT
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

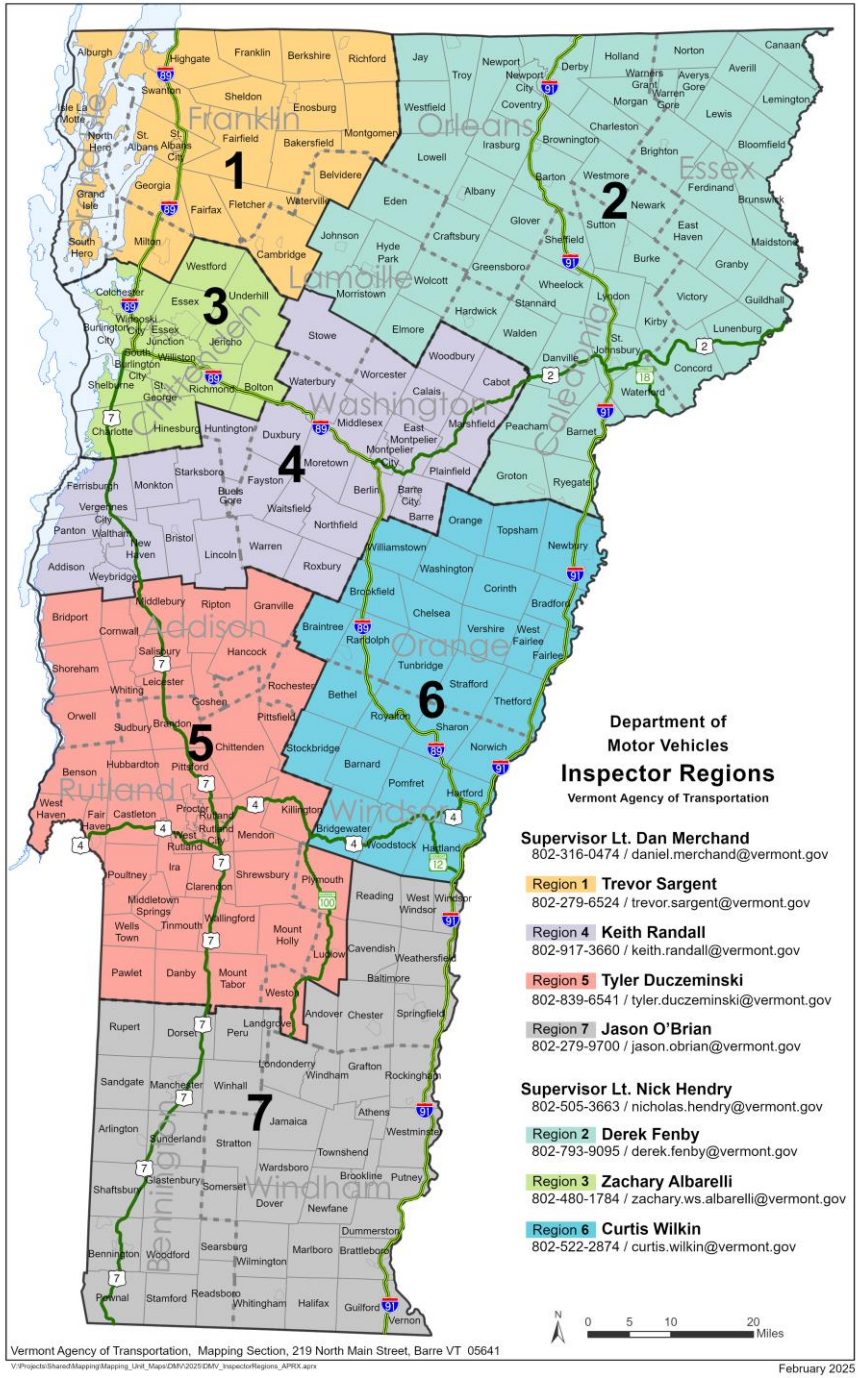
VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Investigations Unit - Overview

- Provide Criminal & Regulatory Enforcement /Administrative Penalties
- Investigate fraudulent activity from all branch offices and transactions through DMV
- Went automated in 2017 with the Automated Inspection Program (AVIP)
- Rewrote inspection manual 2018-19
- Conduct of over a half million inspections a year.
- ATF Task Force Officer – Chittenden County Gun Violence Task Force (CCGVTF)

- Audit Inspection Stations
- To date, we have approximately 1,120 stations inspecting vehicles.
- Over 3000 active inspection mechanics
- Just under 600 new/used car dealers
- Investigate Total Abstinence (TA) and follow up on the over 1,000 participants.
- Education & Outreach

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT



- The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) modernized the inspection process in January 2017 by introducing the Automated Vehicle Inspection Program (AVIP). There were **no** “new inspection requirements” at that time. AVIP simply switched from a paper process to electronic data collection.
- As part of ongoing modernization efforts to improve motorist convenience, DMV in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Vermont Automotive Dealer Association (VADA), independent dealers and inspection stations, and other relevant partners, had reviewed and updated Vermont’s three Periodic Inspection Manuals (VPIM).


2019
Periodic Inspection Manual Update
VERMONT

Inspection Manual Rewrite Team

Motor Vehicle Chief Inspector	DMV - Enforcement
Motor Vehicle CVE Safety Chief	DMV – Enforcement
Motor Vehicle Lieutenant	DMV – Enforcement
CVE Motor Vehicle Inspector	DMV – Enforcement
2 Motor Vehicle Field Inspectors	DMV – Enforcement
VREP (Motorcycles) Coordinator	DMV - Highway Safety Program
Section Chief	DMV – Operations
Bus Safety Coordinator	DMV – Highway Safety Program
2 ANR Representatives	DEC – Environmental Analysts
2 Owner, Industry Experts	VT Inspection Mechanics
Owner, VADA Member	VT Dealerships
Owner, Special Vehicle Expert	VT Inspection Mechanic
AVIP Vendor (Parsons)	Technical Edit & Review
Owner, Body Repair Expert	VT Body Repair Industry
Emissions Expert (Revecorp)	Emissions Contractor
House Transportation Member	VT Legislator
Forensic Automotive Engineering	Uni-body / Frame (Lange Tech. Services)
Director of Industry Relations	Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CAR)

Governor's Priorities

1. Grow Vermont's Economy
2. Make Vermont more affordable
3. Protect Vermont's most vulnerable

Goals: Proposed Periodic Inspection Manual

- **Remove items not critical to the safe operation of a motor vehicle**
  - Front plates, headlight wipers etc.
  - Affordability - Protect our most vulnerable by not having them make unnecessary repairs and allow for time to save to make recommended repairs
- **Modernize, simplify and clarify ambiguous language**
  - Consolidation of items
  - I.e., Brakes
- **Educate the motoring public on the safety inspection process, the relevance of the inspection criteria and Vermont motor vehicle laws**
  - Hyperlinks to regulations available on the tablet

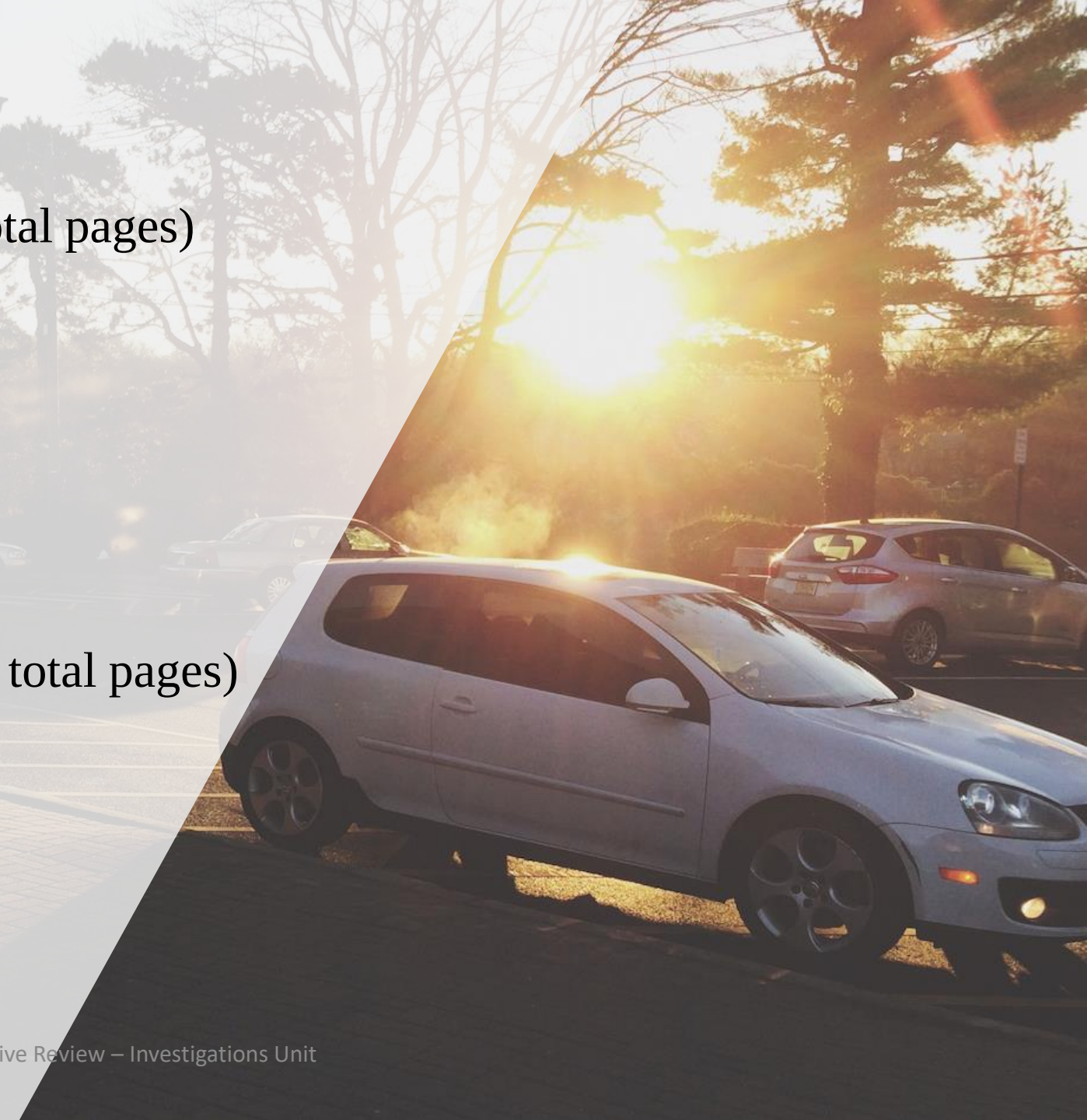
******* Very thoughtful and well researched: Page by page, section by section, word by word… Extremely time exhaustive for staff and volunteers. The process itself took about a year to complete.

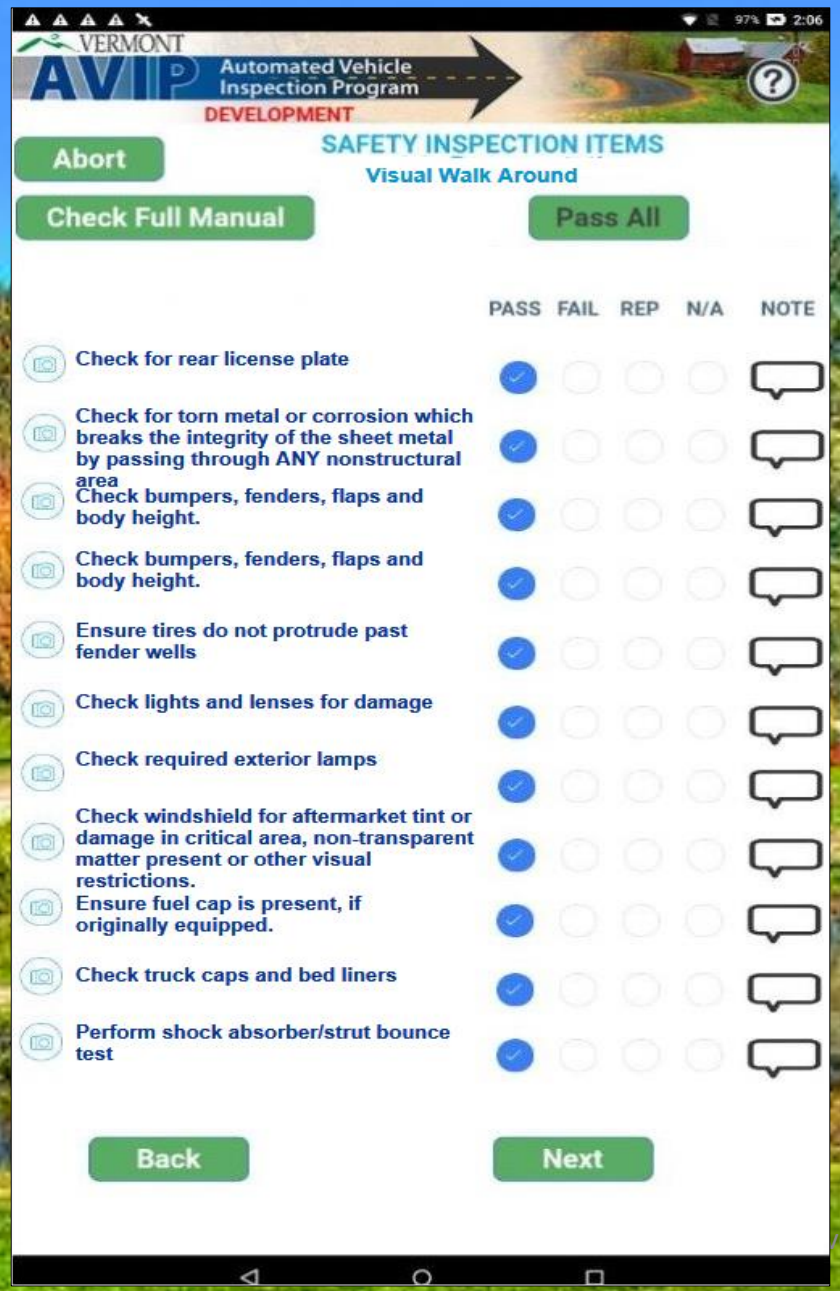
Old vs. New

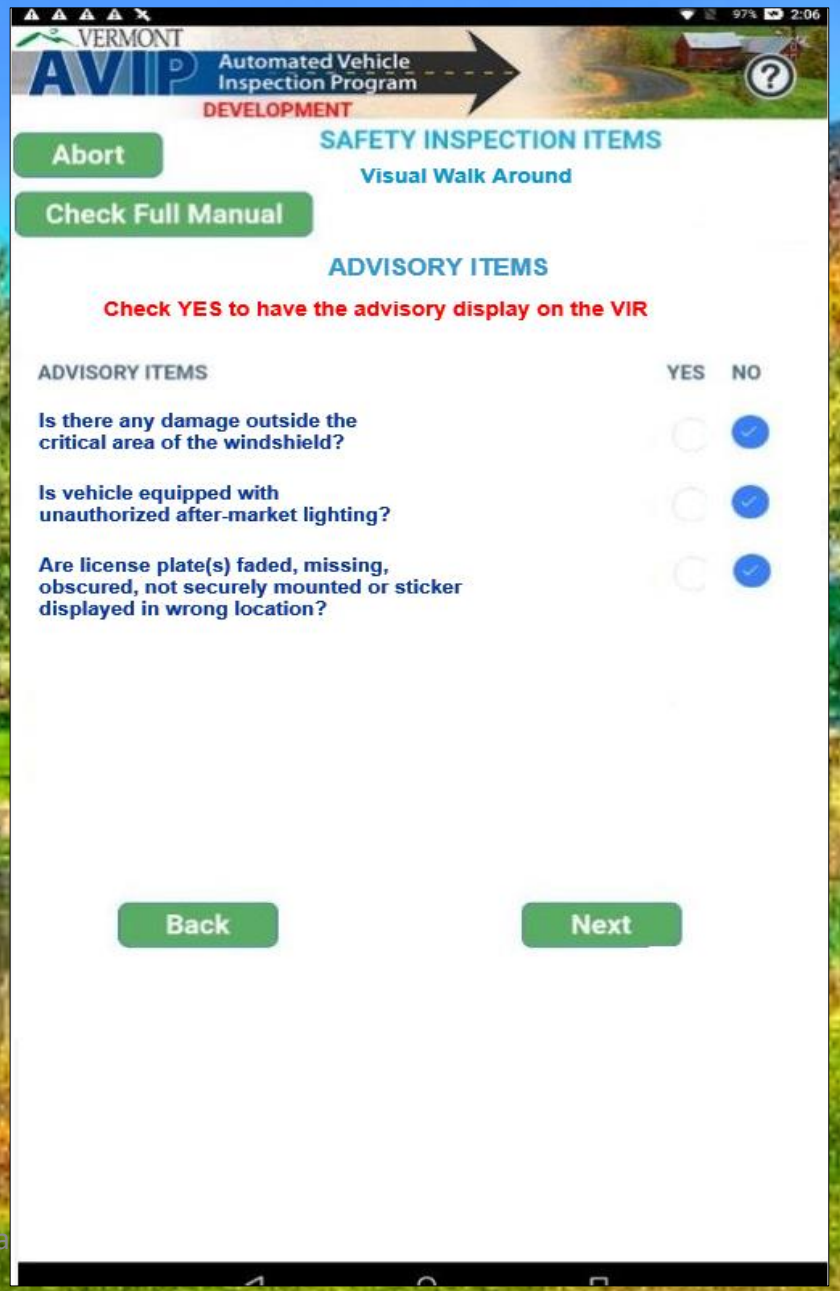
3 Periodic Inspection Manuals (574 total pages)

1. School Bus
2. Motorcycle
3. Vehicle – Car, truck, trailer & bus

1 New Periodic Inspection Manual (162 total pages)





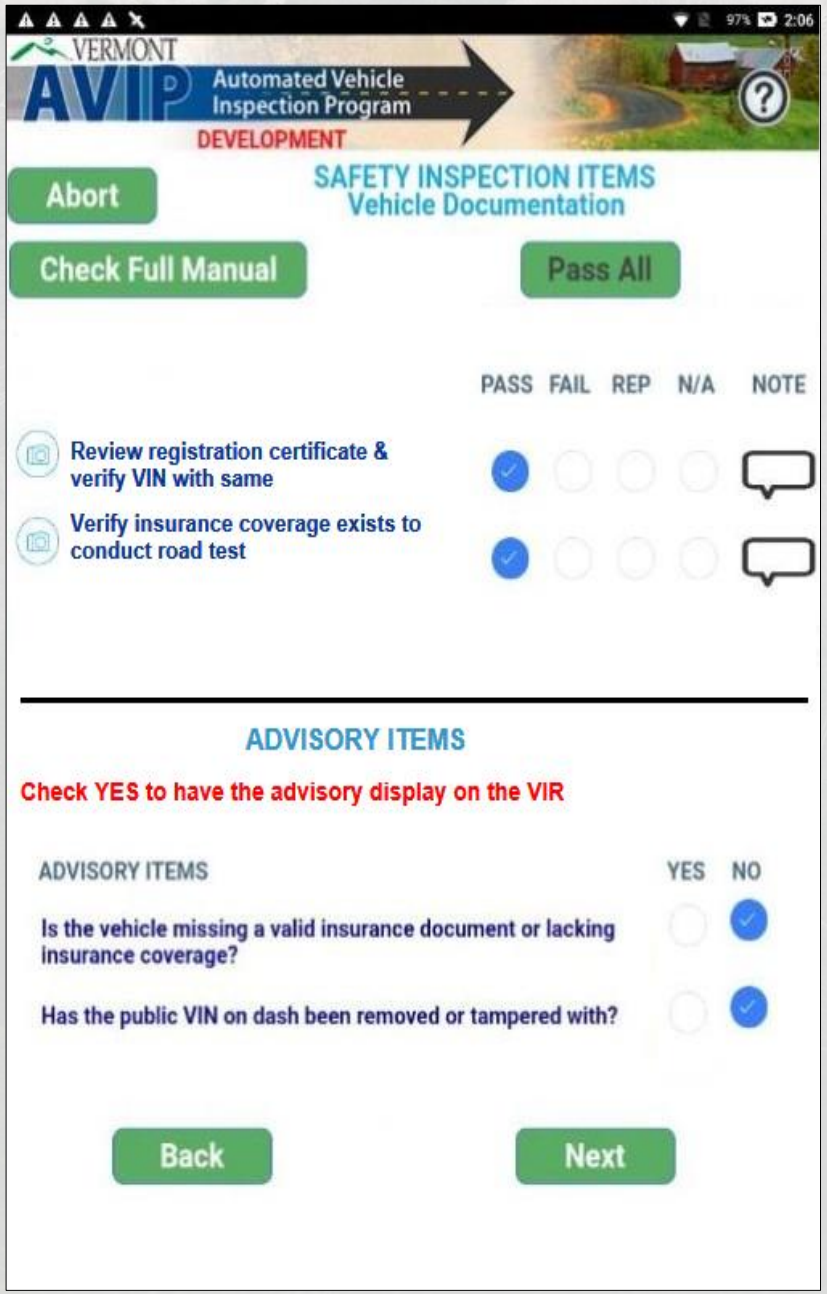


Advisory

Pass

Fail

Advisory



ADVISORY: License Plates

Procedure: Examine License plates.

Reject vehicle if:

1. There are no license plate(s) attached to the vehicle.

Note: If there is only one plate attached to the vehicle, it should be on the rear.

Advise customer if:

1. If the front license plate is missing, the mechanic must advise the customer he/she may be in violation of State Law 23 V.S.A. § 511 and should contact the DMV to acquire a replacement plate using DMV form VD-016. .

Not having a front license plates are still a violation under Title 23, but not criteria to cause a vehicle to fail a Vermont State Inspection.

The VIR will indicate the advisory: A plate is missing, faded, obscured, insecurely mounted or sticker is improperly attached. You may be in violation of Vermont law 23 VSA 511 and/or 514

Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR): Report generated by Official Inspection Mechanic detailing the results of the vehicle inspection. Access your report anytime through VT-AVIP.

VERMONT

INSPECTION TEST REPORT FOR

Department of Motor Vehicles
Agency of Transportation
http://dmv.vermont.gov/AVIP

DMV Inspections Un
120 State Stre
Montpelier, Vermont 05603-0

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

Plate:	HLL398	**Year:**	2017	**GVWR:**	4409
VIN:	JF1VA2M64H9806885	**Make:**	SUBARU	**Sticker Number:**	20-502692
Veh. Type:	CAR/TRUCK	**Model:**	WRX STI	**Sticker Month:**	12
Odometer:	34420	**Fuel Type:**	GASOLINE		

OVERALL TEST RESULT: PASS

SAFETY INSPECTION RESULT: PASS

Inspection Item	Result	Details
Registration and Insurance	PASS	
Wheels and Tires	PASS	
Steering and Suspension	PASS	
Brake Systems	PASS	
Lighting and Electrical	PASS	
Vehicle Glazing	PASS	driver/passenger front window have aftermarket tint. These windows may be in violation c State Law 23 VSA 1125;
Body and Sheet Metal	PASS	
Exhaust System	PASS	
Fuel System	PASS	
Fuel Cap and Catalytic Converter	PASS	
Flaps and Fenders	PASS	

Thank you for doing your part to help keep Vermont's highways safe, and our air clean!

Station #:	845	**Primary Tech #:**	4920	**Date:**	12/30/2020
Station Name:	TIM'S GARAGE	**Tech name:**	TIMOTHY HOLLER	**Time:**	13:03:12
Station Address:	49 COURT ST	**Primary Technician Signature:**			
Secondary Tech #:					
Tech Name:					

Page 1 o

VERMONT

INSPECTION TEST REPORT FORM

Department of Motor Vehicles
Agency of Transportation
http://dmv.vermont.gov/AVIP

DMV Inspections Uni
120 State Stree
Montpelier, Vermont 05603-00

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

Plate:	HLL398	**Year:**	2017	**GVWR:**	4409
VIN:	JF1VA2M64H9806885	**Make:**	SUBARU	**Sticker Number:**	20-502692
Veh. Type:	CAR/TRUCK	**Model:**	WRX STI	**Sticker Month:**	12
Odometer:	34420	**Fuel Type:**	GASOLINE		

OVERALL TEST RESULT: PASS

OBD-II INSPECTION RESULT: PASS

System Monitored	Status
Misfire	Ready
Fuel System	Ready
Comprehensive	Ready
Catalyst	Ready
Heated Catalyst	Not Applicable
Evaporative System	Ready
Secondary Air	Ready
Air Conditioning System	Not Applicable
Oxygen Sensor	Ready
Oxygen Sensor Heater	Ready
EGR System	Ready

Test Results

OBDII Connection:	PASS
OBD Readiness Monitor Results:	PASS
MIL Check with Key On-Engine Off:	PASS
MIL Check with Engine Running:	PASS
MIL Command Status:	PASS

Diagnostic Trouble Codes(DTC) if Present

Station #:	845	**Primary Tech #:**	4920	**Date:**	12/30/2020
Station Name:	TIM'S GARAGE	**Tech name:**	TIMOTHY HOLLER	**Time:**	13:03:12
Station Address:	49 COURT ST	**Primary Technician Signature:**			
Secondary Tech #:					
Tech Name:					

Page 2 of

VERMONT

INSPECTION TEST REPORT FORM

Department of Motor Vehicles
Agency of Transportation
http://dmv.vermont.gov/AVIP

DMV Inspections Unit
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05603-001

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

Plate:	HLL398	**Year:**	2017	**GVWR:**	4409
VIN:	JF1VA2M64H9806885	**Make:**	SUBARU	**Sticker Number:**	20-502692
Veh. Type:	CAR/TRUCK	**Model:**	WRX STI	**Sticker Month:**	12
Odometer:	34420	**Fuel Type:**	GASOLINE		

The AVIP system has not identified any open recalls for your vehicle. Please check with the vehicle manufacturer, dealership or the repair facility for potential recalls for your vehicle.

NHTSA

Reference Number	Type	Recall Description

What is a recall?

When a manufacturer, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines that a car or item of motor vehicle equipment creates an unreasonable risk to safety or fails to meet minimum safety standards, or an emission control component is not functioning properly, the manufacturer is required to fix that car or equipment at no cost to the consumer.

What should I do if my vehicle is included in this recall?

If your vehicle is included in this recall, **it is very important that you get it fixed as soon as possible given the potential danger to you and your passengers if it is not addressed.**

You should receive a separate letter in the mail from the vehicle manufacturer, notifying you of the recall and explaining when the remedy will be available, whom to contact to repair your vehicle or equipment, and to remind you that the repair will be done at no charge to you.

If you do not receive a letter in the mail from the vehicle manufacturer, please contact your vehicle manufacturer or dealership or for safety items you may also call NHTSA's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep Vermont's highways safe and our air clean.

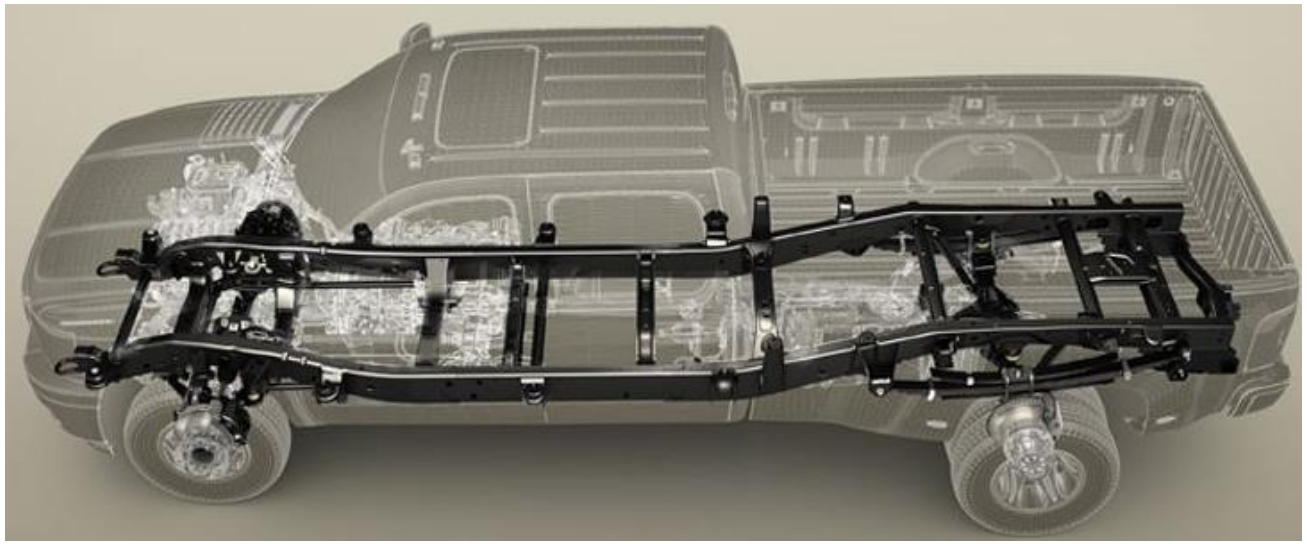
Page 3 of 3

Frame Components

Reject vehicle if:

1. Any area of the frame or cross members connecting the left side of the frame to the right side of the frame, cross members connecting to the inner rocker panels, engine mounts, or engine cradles exhibit corrosion which breaks the integrity of the metal by passing through a component, or causes cracks, causes breaks, causes tears, or any broken manufactured welds or is missing any section of an original manufactured component. **Items such as duct tape, foam spray insulation, or other materials are not acceptable.**

Body-on-Frame



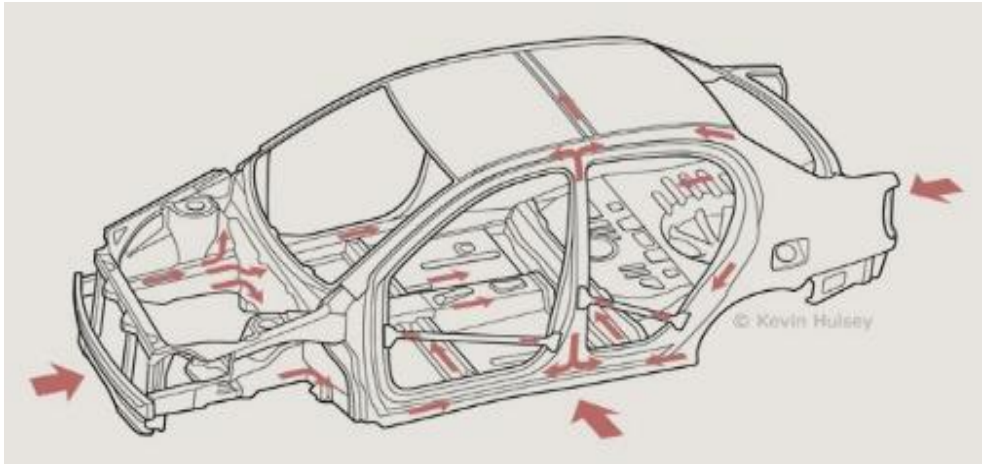
Note: No patches, welds, or repairs of any kind to any portion of the above-described frame and unibody areas are acceptable, unless the repair meets manufacturer recommendations, specifications or requirements.

Unibody: Rocker Panel

Old Periodic Inspection Manual: FRAME OR UNI-BODY INTEGRITY

Reject vehicle if:

Any structural part of the undercarriage is broken, cracked or so severely rusted so as to cause a hazard.

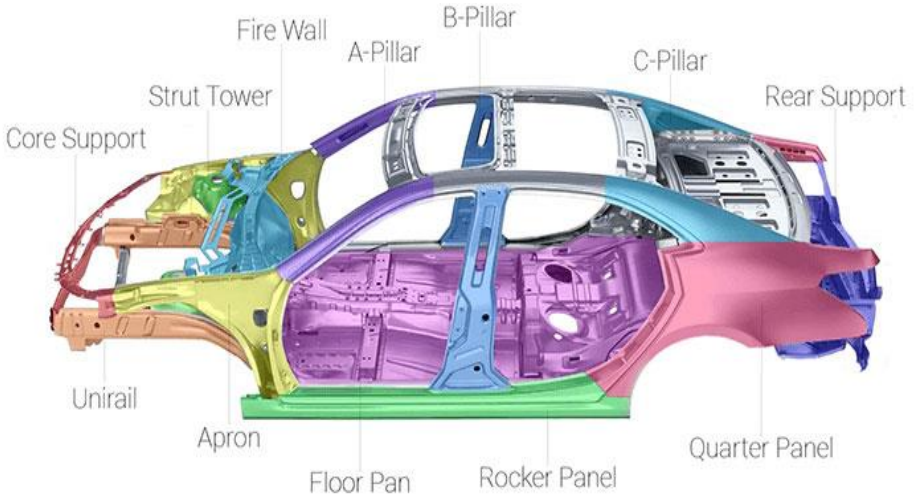


New Periodic Inspection Manual: Frame/Unibody – Structural Components

Rocker Panel

Reject vehicle if:

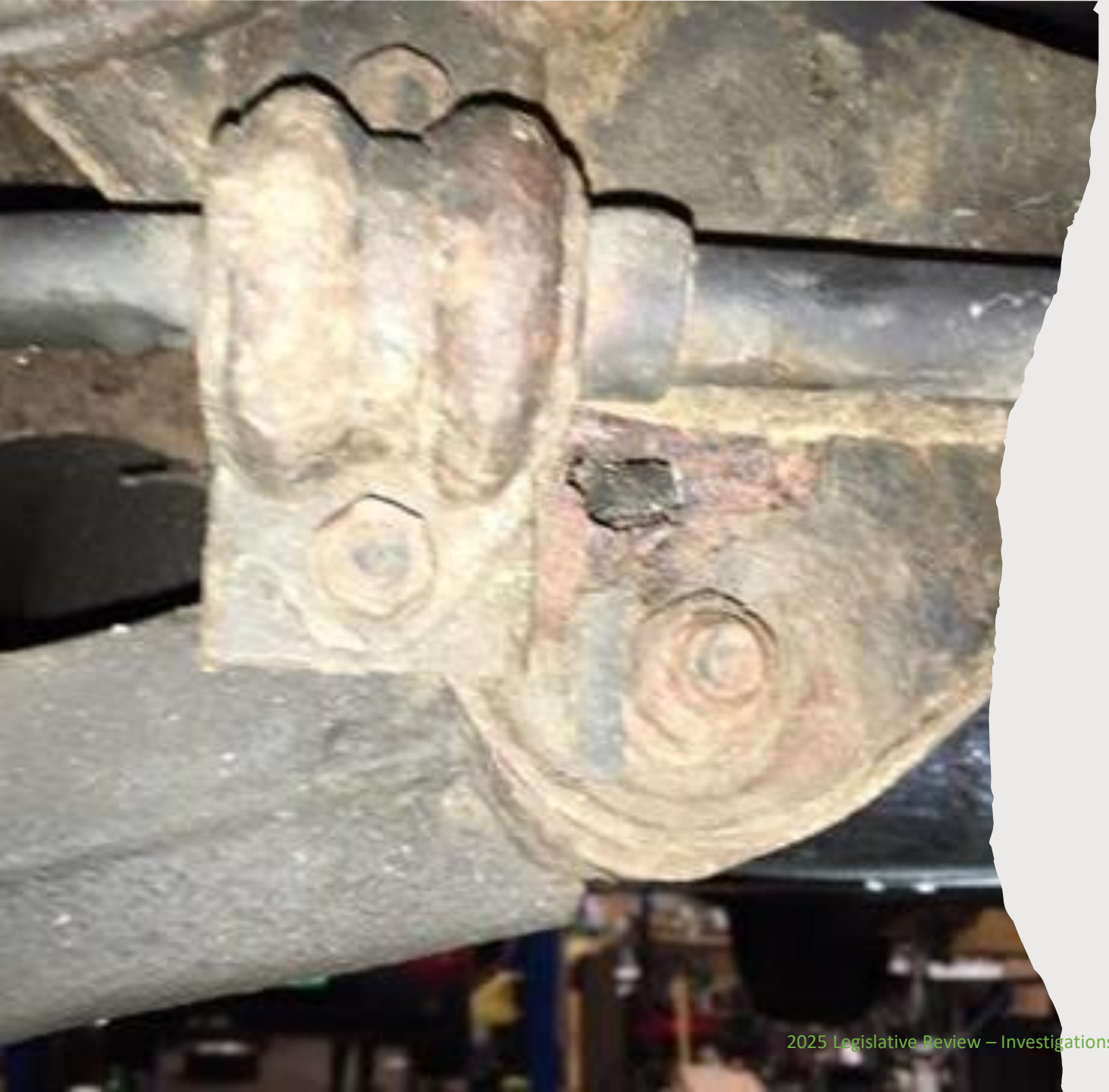
1. Any area of a rocker panel displays corrosion, damage or cracks which breaks down the integrity of the metal by passing through the inner or outer rocker panel. **Items such as duct tape, foam spray insulation, or other materials are not acceptable.**



See rear tire:

- Rusted mount (Bushing) where the control arm separated from the rear subframe:

- Rusted mount (Bushing) where the control arm separated from the rear subframe:



- The other side showing a “small” rust hole where the subframe and lower control arm connect:

The same hole when poked at with a screwdriver:

This is a photo of the infant child seat mount in the back seat:

Brakes

Old Periodic Inspection Manual: Brake Drums

2. Rust and/or cracks exist on drum contact surface.

New Periodic Inspection Manual: Rotors/Drums

4. If more than 1/2 inch of rust (cumulative per braking surface) exists on any contact surface of the rotor/drum.

Note: Rust is defined as a condition of any swelling, delamination, or pitting.

***** "Surface rust" is not grounds for rejection. *****

VERMONT

Inspection Station Bulletin

Brake Rotors / Rust

State of Vermont
Department of Motor Vehicles
Enforcement & Safety Division
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05603-0001
DMV-Enforcement@vermont.gov

[phone] 802-828-2067
[fax] 802-828-2092
[ttd] 800-253-0191

Agency of Transportation

vtrans.vermont.gov
dmv.vermont.gov

March 6, 2025 **25-2**

Vermont Periodic Inspection Manual (VPIM) / DMV Rule - CVR 14-050-022

In 2019, the Vermont Periodic Inspection Manual (VPIM) was amended. Since that time, concerns have been raised regarding the definition of rust. This bulletin is designed to provide clarification.

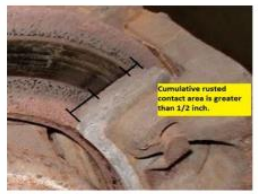
Rust is NOW defined "as a condition of any swelling, delamination, or pitting."

Surface rust should wear off with normal driving use. If ***surface rust*** does not come off, there is a problem with the braking system and/or, there may be more than just ***surface rust*** on the rotor.

Here are samples of rotors with "surface rust" that would not constitute a rejection:

Picture 1 The rotor is covered with "surface rust."
Picture 2 The "surface rust" has been removed from the braking surface and has returned to the original finish through normal operation.

Here are examples of swelling, delamination, pitting and of a ½ inch of cumulative rust which would constitute a rejection.



VTrans Working to Get You There

VERMONT

Customer Information

Rust: Rotor rust as defined in the Vt Periodic Inspection Manual (VPIM) will compromise braking efficiency and safety.

Rust is developed from moisture (rain, snow, mud, other), inactivity and/or by salty winter roads. Vehicle age and miles are not necessarily a factor.

Your rotor should have a smooth shiny surface where the pad affixes to the rotor. Rust inhibits the brake pads from gaining a proper grip and/or dispersing heat effectively. If orange with ***surface rust***, it should rub off with normal use.

Swelling, delamination and pitting on the contact surface (where the brake pad strikes the rotor) reduces the friction required to stop a vehicle in an emergency/panic braking situation. This is directly related to the brakes' effectiveness and ability to stop as designed.

Swelling decreases braking efficiency due to uneven surfaces created by rust and will likely result in your vehicle taking longer to stop.

Prevention: ***Surface rust*** will build over time, developing into more harmful rust that will affect your brake rotors and other braking components. Friction from regular brake use will wear surface rust off and slow down the delamination process.

Protect your brakes from rust by simply using your brakes, wash the undercarriage of your vehicle regularly (remove salt), and apply brake cleaner as needed. Lack of use or inactivity will allow rust to build.

Electric vehicles require less brake use than that of a vehicle with a combustible engine. Make sure to use the brakes, and keep the rotors clear of ***surface rust*** that will build over time from inactivity and keep the rotors free of corrosive salt.

Rust not only affects pads/rotors, but may also cause the calipers to seize, brake lines to fail and possibly inhibit the ABS system from properly activating.

***** "Surface rust" is not grounds for rejection. *****

Should you or your customers have any concerns regarding this criterion, please contact the DMV Enforcement and Safety Division at (802) 828-2067 or visit the DMV website to locate a DMV Inspector near you. DMV Inspector Map | Department of Motor Vehicles (vermont.gov)

VTrans Working to Get You There

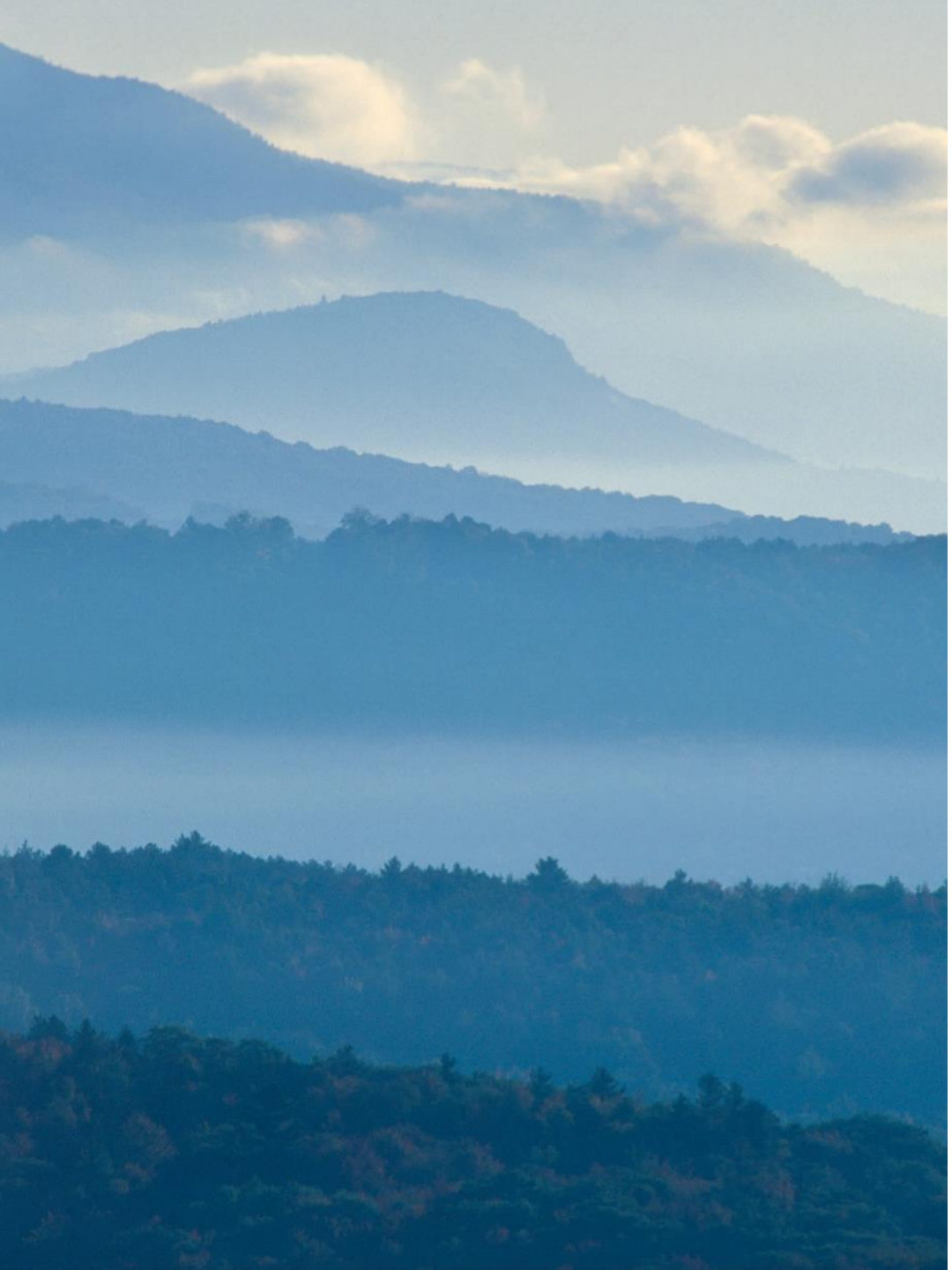
Administrative Procedures Act (APA) is

the process for adopting administrative rules.

- **Application/Filing with Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules (ICAR)**
- **Proposed Rule Filing with Secretary of State**
- **Publication of Notices (Posted online one week from receipt, and in newspapers of record.)**
- **Public Hearing and Comment Period**
- **Final Proposed Rule Filing with Secretary of State and Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)**
- **Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) Review**
- **Adopted Filing with Secretary of State and LCAR**

*** Process takes approximately 8 months**

VERMONT



Emissions Testing in Vermont

Improve Air Quality

- Motor Vehicles are the largest source of toxic and ozone-forming air pollutants in Vermont

Clean Air Act (Federal Law)

- Vermont is one of 33 States within the OZONE Transport Region
- EPA Regulations

Benefits

- Clean air
- Improved vehicle performance and fuel economy
- Timely repair can often prevent more costly repairs down the road

*** We have been doing this since 1999!**

**** The Emissions Testing failure rate in 2017 was around 18%.**

Today, its under 4%!!

ON-BOARD DIAGNOSTICS (OBD II) TEST

On-Board Diagnostics (OBD): The OBDII system, mandatory on all 1996 and newer vehicles (Federal Law), performs self-tests of the emissions control system to "monitor" to determine if the emissions controls are working properly. If a problem is found, the vehicle's "Check Engine" light or MIL (Malfunction Indicator Light) will come on, indicating the need for repair.

Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL): Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL) or "Check Engine Light" turns on only when a vehicle has an ***emissions*** related problem.

Legislative change effective July 1, 2019: Starting from the current calendar year, vehicles 16 model years old or less, having a GVWR of 8,500 pounds or less must be inspected for OBD. For example: from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, vehicles that are model year 2005 or newer will need to be inspected for OBD.

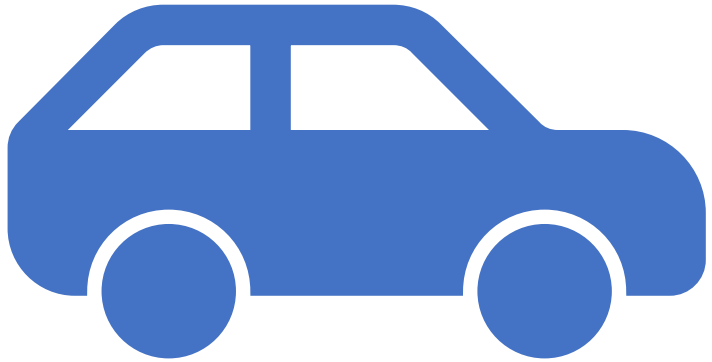
READINESS

My vehicle is "Not Ready." What does that mean?

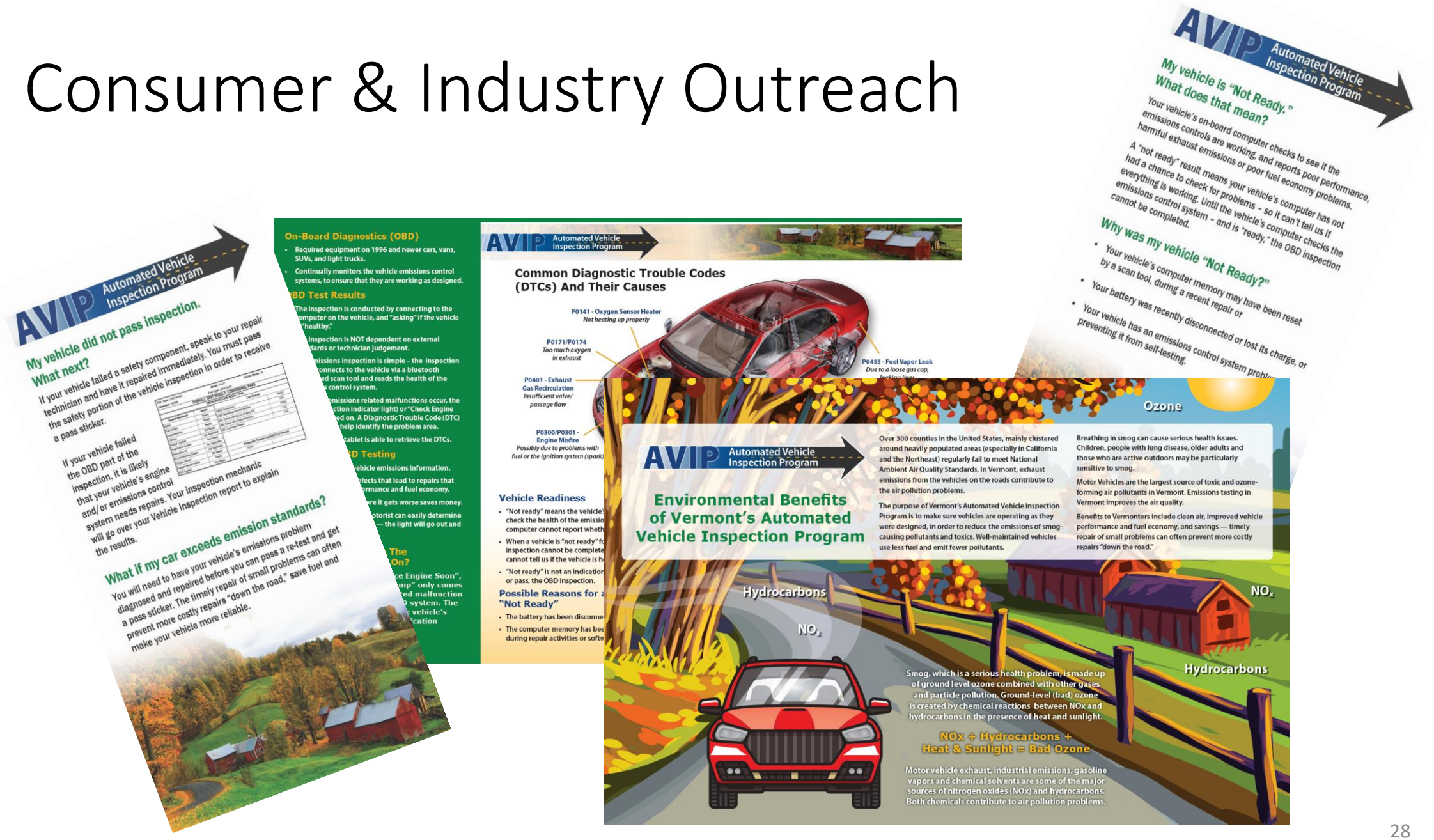
A "not ready" result means your vehicle's computer has not had a chance to check all the parts of the emissions control system for problems. Needs to complete drive cycle.

Why was my vehicle "Not Ready"?

- Your battery was recently disconnected or lost its charge, or
- Your vehicle's computer memory may have been reset by a scan tool, during a recent repair, or
- Your vehicle has an emissions control system problem preventing it from self-testing.



Consumer & Industry Outreach



Vermont Emissions Warranty Law requires the following:

- A vehicle's entire emissions control system be warrantied for a minimum of 3 years or 50,000 miles, and up to 15 years and 150,000 miles;
- High-cost emissions components other than the computer and catalytic converter(s) be warranted for a minimum of 7 years or 70,000 miles;
- Computer and catalytic converter(s) be warranted for a minimum of 8 years and 80,000 miles.

Time Extension Waiver Criteria

- The vehicle passed the safety inspection
- The emissions system was not tampered with or removed
- The emissions repair is not covered under warranty
  - If it is, the vehicle must be repaired
- The vehicle is “ready” for inspection
- The motorist has a diagnosis with receipts and an estimate totaling more than $200 for emissions control system repairs – no other repairs count such as tires or safety repairs
- The vehicle did not receive a waiver a year ago as part of their last inspection

* DEC - Vermont Vehicle Emissions Assistance Repair Program

Other assistance programs: Good News Garage, Reach-up etc.

AVIP - Leveraging technology

- A trigger was built through AVIP to identify the fraudulent bypassing of OBD inspection requirements by manually entering the Gross Vehicle Weight Ratio (GVWR) and the fraudulent use of after-market tuners designed to tamper with OBD testing through bypassing the catalyst in violation of the Periodic Inspection Manual (VPIM) and Air Pollution Control Regulations (5-701, Maintenance and Removal of Control Devices; 5-703, Inspection of Control Devices).
- Another example trigger was developed after learning of the manual override activity, we also detected through AVIP technology that inspection mechanics were plugging the scan tool (dongle) into the Data Link Connector (DLC) of another vehicle to fraudulently record a pass on the OBD test. In other words, the vehicle being inspected would have failed the emissions OBD test, so the mechanic hooked the dongle up to a passing vehicle to show the vehicle passed on the tablet. In this case, the Electronic Vehicle Identification Number (EVIN) – VIN in the vehicle's computer would not match the Public Vehicle Inspection Number (PVIN)- VIN located on the vehicle's dashboard and/or on the driver's door. Initially, this activity led to several hundred new fraud investigations (some with multiple violations at a single inspection station, and one with approximately 300 alone). We receive very few now.

Benefit to an annual vehicle inspection program

- Safer roads
- Cost savings: Detecting small repairs now, may save you from larger more costly repairs down the road (Preventative maintenance). Example: Replacing worn brake pads today, may prevent you from having to replace rotors or other more expensive brake components later.
- Improved vehicle performance: This includes better gas mileage more efficient emissions, and it will increase the life of the vehicle.
- Recall notifications

Enforcement: Vehicles Not Inspected (VNI)

2017 = 6337 – Inception of AVIP

2018 = 6906

2019 = 4813

2020 = 2014 – COVID / Minneapolis

2021 = 1757

2022 = 1615 – Changed inspection stickers

2023 = 2028

2024 = 1948

* DMV did not change sticker designs until 2022 (roll out wasn't complete until late 2022). Enforcement of the new stickers wouldn't have taken place until 2023.

Total Abstinence Program

The **TAP** is designed for people who have received a life suspension after multiple DUI convictions (three or more) to receive a conditional reinstatement of driving privileges.

1.Have at least three years of being abstinent from all alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or misuse of prescription-regulated drugs. Even some beers and wine labeled “non-alcoholic” contain alcohol and may not be consumed under Total Abstinence.

2.Applicants must have installed and utilized an ignition interlock system in their vehicle for three full years prior to application to the Total Abstinence Program.

3.Complete an Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program (IDRP) intake at one of the IDRP sites to discuss your intentions to prove Total Abstinence with your IDRP Evaluator.

4.Successfully complete treatment consisting of a minimum of 20 hours over a minimum of 24 weeks with a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC). The counselor, IDRP Evaluator, and a representative from IDRP will determine when you have successfully completed treatment.

The Investigations Unit monitors the approximately 1,000 Total Abstinence Program participants, while thoroughly screening new applicants.

EDUCATION
Technical Center Support

1967-1968

The student credentialing program is for high school and technical college students. During the practical exam, students pair up with an Inspector and complete an examination of a vehicle or “mock inspection”. Throughout this process, students are explaining to the Inspector the criterion based on the VPIM, while the Inspector evaluates the exam, providing valuable feedback.

- Vermont Technical College in Randoph
- Cold Hollow Career Center in Enosburgh Falls
- North Country Career Center in Newport
- Center for Technologies in Essex

Criminal / Major Case Examples

- Much of the work conducted by our sworn staff is criminal in nature (Fraud, forgery, false swearing, embezzlement, identity theft etc.), but is often handled through regulatory means, civil or other remedies.
- Criminal cases range from DLS (Interlock cases) to Manslaughter (Jalbert case).

Case Samples

- A federal indictment for the offenses of: Wire Fraud, Mail Fraud, Bank Fraud, and Aggravated Identity Theft. This case of identity theft left the Vermont victim in debt for almost $200,000.
- The owner/GM of a NEK dealership recently pleaded guilty to Embezzlement and, multiple counts of Vehicle Forged Papers because of a lengthy investigation conducted by the Investigations Unit. The owner/GM will also be unable to do business as a dealer in the State of VT.
- Inspectors in partnership with the US Attorney's Office indicted and received a plea, sentencing a Shelburne resident to 48 months' imprisonment to be followed by a three-year term of supervised release. The defendant previously pleaded guilty to five counts of possessing and disposing of stolen vehicles that had crossed state lines. The defendant was also ordered to pay restitution to Tesla in the amount of $493,043.93 and forfeit $231,900 to the United States.
- Assisted the Vermont State Police investigate one of their own resulting in the trooper being charged by DMV Inspectors for False Swearing, Neglect of Duty and Applications under oath.

Highlights

- The Enforcement and Safety Division provided approximately 700 requests for assist from other investigative, state (out of state as well), local or county agencies in 2024. This includes investigations ranging from motor vehicle incidents to homicide; assists with crashes, executions of warrants to searching partial plates, providing criminal suspect photos, and much more.

- Inspectors from the Investigations Unit continue to support the Chittenden County Gun Violence Taskforce, while assisting other law enforcement agencies with shift coverage, executing warrants, providing DMV data/research to aid in investigations and much more.

- Inspector Supervisor Nick Hendry was sworn as a Federal Taskforce Officer with Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

- Criminal and civil enforcement oversite of 1,051 licensed inspection stations (over 500,000 vehicles inspected each year), 561 licensed dealerships (3+ billion in motor vehicle sales) and over a million transactions from our DMV.

Scott Davidson, Chief
Inspector
Department of Motor Vehicles
Enforcement & Safety Division
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05603
Scott.davidson@vermont.gov
(802) 828-4647

See AVIP website at

www.vt-avip.com

for more information

***Information Modules/Videos**