

Did any states start out with annual safety inspections and then moved to biennial?

Have any states added safety inspections? Or is the trend that they're moving them back?

Upon further research, we could not find examples of states that have made their **non-commercial vehicle safety** inspection laws to be more stringent. In general, when a state changes their **safety** inspection laws, they tend to be loosening requirements. Some examples are listed below:

- 2024: West Virginia changed their motor inspection laws from requiring annual inspections to inspections every two years
 - Rob Macko, "New law takes effect for WV motor vehicle inspections," *West Virginia Department of Transportation*, January 5, 2024. Accessed February 7, 2026,
<https://transportation.wv.gov/communications/PressRelease/Pages/New-Law-Takes-Effect-for-WV-Motor-Vehicle-Inspections.aspx>.
- 2025: Texas abolished the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program for non-commercial vehicles, thereby eliminating the requirement for non-commercial vehicle safety inspections starting in January 2025. (Their county-based emissions testing requirements remained in place.)
 - Texas Department of Public Safety, *Vehicle Safety Inspection Changes Take Effect January 2025*, December 4, 2024. Accessed February 7, 2026,
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/news/vehicle-safety-inspection-changes-take-effect-january-2025>.

However, when it comes to **non-commercial vehicle emissions** testing requirements, the ability to recognize trends gets harder, as some states have gotten rid of their emission testing laws, and some have adopted more strict regulatory measures. For example:

- 2012: The municipality of Anchorage, AK, got rid of their vehicle emissions inspection requirements
 - Division of Air Quality, "What's New with Vehicle Emissions?" *Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation*. Accessed February 7, 2026,
<https://dec.alaska.gov/air/anpms/vehicle-emissions/news>.
- 2023: Maryland enacted a law that stated that vehicles made from the year 2019 or later were not required to follow the state's biennial emissions test requirement for the first six years of that car's life.
 - Motor Vehicle Administration "Six-Year Emission Testing," *Maryland Department of Transportation*. Accessed February 7, 2026,
<https://mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/Pages/Six-Year-Emission-Testing.aspx>.

However:

- California's vehicle emissions testing requirements change frequently, as the state has been uniquely approved by the federal government to enact more strict emissions testing laws than those at the federal level.
 - The State Climate Policy Dashboard, "Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) Standards," *Climate XChange*. Accessed February 7, 2026,

<https://www.climatepolicydashboard.org/policies/transportation/low-emission-vehicles#:~:text=Under%20the%20Section%20177%20federal,model%20years%2026%20through%202035.>

We will note that with New Hampshire's move to make vehicle inspections not required, legal action has been taken against this on the grounds that NH did not prove a decrease in emissions and did not receive federal approval to repeal the act.

(Jared Arce, "Federal judge blocks New Hampshire repeal of annual vehicle inspections and emissions requirements," *The Dartmouth*, February 6, 2026,

<https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2026/02/arce-federal-judge-blocks-new-hampshire-repeal-of-annual-vehicle-inspections-and-emissions-requirements.>)

Car crash correlation to safety inspections?

The scope of our research **did not analyze policy rationales** behind safety inspection implementation.

Existing scholarship on ***the statistical relationship between crash rates and inspection programs is inconclusive***. Some studies suggest that periodic inspections may be associated with a slight reduction in crashes. However, confounding variables--such as differences in vehicle age distributions, climate and road-salt exposure, enforcement practices, socioeconomic factors, and overall traffic volume--make it difficult for researchers to establish a causal link between inspection regimes and crash outcomes.

- Martín-de los Reyes, Luis Miguel et al. "Effect of Periodic Vehicle Inspection on Road Crashes and Injuries: A Systematic Review." International journal of environmental research and public health vol. 18,12 6476. 15 Jun. 2021, doi:10.3390/ijerph18126476
 - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8296297/>