

PLEASURE CAR AND LIGHT TRUCK

INSPECTION STICKER PLACEMENT

Inspection stickers must be affixed to a vehicle's windshield in a location specified by the commissioner of the DMV.

WHEELS AND TIRES

Procedure: Examine tires.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Any tire is worn so that less than 2/32-inch tread remains in any two major grooves.
2. Any tire has a worn spot that exposes the cord through the tread.
3. Any tire has visible bumps, bulges, or knots indicating failure or separation of the tire structure.
4. Any tire has cuts, snags, or severe ozone or weather cracks in any location.
5. Tires on the same axle are not the same type, construction, or size.
6. Any tire is marked "**For Farm Use Only**," "**Off-Highway Use Only**," "**Racing use Only**," etc.

Advise customer if:

1. Tire tread depths are between 2/32 and 4/32 of an inch, as they are likely to diminish to below safety standards before the term of the safety inspection expires.
2. Tire size does not match manufacturer specifications.
3. The tire is more than 8 years old. In this case, recommend replacement.

Note: Refer to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#) for tire manufacturers' recommend tire age for replacement.

Procedure: Examine wheels. Refer to 49 CFR § 570.10 for additional information.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Any part of wheel is bent, cracked, rewelded, damaged, or has elongated bolt holes so as to affect safe operation of the vehicle.

Note: If, during the road test, the vehicle exhibits behavior that indicates a problem with alignment, check alignment and advise the customer if toe-in exceeds 1.5 times the value listed in the vehicle manufacturer's service specification for alignment setting.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Steering linkage play exceeds the manufacturer's specifications.
2. Steering wheel lash exceeds the specifications outlined in Table 1, below.
3. Front wheels are incapable of being turned to the right and left steering stops without binding or interference.

Table 1 – Steering System Free Play Values

Advise customer if:

1. Free play in the steering linkage exceeds 1/4 of an inch.

Procedure: Examine CV joints and U-joints.

Reject vehicle if:

1. CV joints or U-joints are loose or binding in a way that affects steering performance.

Steering wheel diameter (inches)	Lash (inches)
16 or less	2
18	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
20	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
22	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

Advise customer if:

1. The CV boot is torn.

Procedure: Examine power steering components.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Any power steering system component exhibits excessive fluid leak (actively dripping from the vehicle).
2. Any electric and/or hydraulic power steering system component fails to function as designed (not including power steering belt).

Procedure: Examine power steering belt.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Power steering belt is broken.

Advise customer if:

1. Power steering belt exhibits dry rot and/or cracks.

Procedure: Examine springs, torsion bars, shock absorbers, and struts.**Reject vehicle if:**

1. Springs or torsion bars are cracked, broken, missing, or shifted out of position.
2. Vehicle continues free rocking motion after release, indicating loss of shock absorber function.
3. Shock absorbers or struts are missing or display excessive leakage (e.g., actively dripping from the vehicle).
4. Mounting bolts or mounts for torsion bars, springs, or shock absorbers/struts are loose or broken.
5. Air springs are collapsed.
6. Shackles or U-bolts are worn or loose.
7. Radius rods are missing or damaged.
8. Stabilizer bar is broken, disconnected or missing (if originally equipped).

Advise customer if:

1. Rubber bushings are cracked or extruded out from or missing from suspension joints.
2. Spacers, if installed, are not on both front springs, not on both rear springs, or not on all four springs.

BRAKE SYSTEMS

The vehicle is required to be road tested either on a public highway, as defined by [23 V.S.A. § 4 \(13\)](#), or in the station yard. The area of the station yard used to conduct the road test must be approved by the DMV. This area must be owned by the station, and access must be closed to the general flow of public traffic.

At a minimum, mechanics are REQUIRED to remove one wheel to completely inspect brake components. If during the road test or physical brake examination, the Inspection Mechanic detects or suspects a problem with one or more of the brakes, all four wheels must be removed to examine the braking systems. Refer to [49 CFR § 570.5](#) for additional information.

Procedure: Examine braking performance during road test.

1. At a speed of 20 MPH, apply the service brake firmly.
2. Verify that the vehicle comes to a smooth stop within 25 feet without pulling to the right or left.
3. The driver should have firm control of the steering wheel throughout the test.

Mechanic Advisory: Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) state that the road test must be conducted on a level (not to exceed plus or minus 1 percent grade), dry, smooth, hard-surfaced road that is free from loose material, oil, or grease. [Title 49 CFR 570](#).

Note: Consider Vermont's seasonal inclement weather conditions and conduct road tests in conditions that ensure that an examination can be conducted appropriately.

Reject vehicle if:

1. The vehicle requires more than 25 feet to stop from 20 MPH.
2. Within the 25-foot braking test, the vehicle swerves enough for any wheel to leave the 12-foot lane.
3. Under 150 pounds of pressure, the brake warning light illuminates or if the brake pedal falls away under pressure or contacts some object that prohibits brake pedal travel.

Advise customer if:

1. When the brake pedal is fully depressed, the distance that the pedal has traveled from its free position is greater than 80 percent of the total distance from its free position to the floorboard or other object that restricts pedal travel.

Procedure: Examine master cylinder.**Reject vehicle if:**

1. Master cylinder leaks.
2. The master cylinder fluid level is below the minimum level.

Procedure: Examine brake components.**Reject vehicle if:**

1. Hoses or tubing leak or are cracked, chafed, flattened, restricted, insecurely fastened, rusted, and/or corroded, resulting in flaking or pitting that alters the original diameter of the brake line.

2. If repairs have been made with copper tubing or compression fittings.
3. Brake hoses are mounted so as to contact the vehicle body or chassis.
4. Vacuum hoses are collapsed, abraded, broken, improperly mounted, or audibly leaking.

Advise customer if:

1. With residual vacuum exhausted and a constant 25-pound force on the brake pedal, the pedal should fall slightly when the engine is started, demonstrating integrity of the power-assist system. This test is not applicable to vehicles equipped with full power brake system because the service brake performance test will be considered an adequate test of system performance.

Procedure: Examine rotors/drums.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Brake rotor thickness is less than the manufacturer's minimum specification.
2. The drum inside diameter exceeds the manufacturer's maximum specification.
3. Brake rotor cooling vanes on vented rotors are corroded or rusted to the point where the rotor collapses when pressure is applied by the brake caliper.
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.

5. System components are cracked, broken, misaligned, missing, or binding or if automatic adjusters or other parts are assembled or installed incorrectly.
6. Evidence of cracks exist on the rotor/drum.
7. Brake lining does not meet manufacturer's minimum thickness specification.
8. Brake lining shows evidence of cracks or chips or if adhesion to the backing plate is compromised.
9. Wheel cylinders or calipers leak.

License plate lamp 23 V.S.A. § 1248	1	White	Rear	At rear license plate to illuminate the plate from the top or sides.
Backup lamps	2	White	Rear	Activated only when the vehicle is in reverse.
Clearance lamps (front) 23 V.S.A. § 1250	1	Amber	Front	Vehicles wider than 80 inches are required to be equipped with front clearance lamps as close as possible to the extreme height and width of the vehicle.
Clearance lamps (rear) 23 V.S.A. § 1250	1	Red	Rear	Vehicles wider than 80 inches are required to be equipped with rear clearance lamps as close as possible to the extreme height and width of the vehicle.

Procedure: Visually examine required exterior lamp functions and presence of required exterior lenses and reflectors.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Any required lamps do not operate as designed.
2. Headlamps cannot be properly aimed.
3. Lamps are not DOT/SAE approved with appropriate markings.
4. A lamp shows color contrary to the chart above.
5. A lamp assembly is improperly fastened or loose.
6. Auxiliary equipment is placed on or in front of any lamp (except transparent covers that are part of the original manufacturer's equipped headlamps and are marked DOT approved, i.e., aftermarket tinted lamp covers).
7. A truck cap covers the originally installed center high-mount stop lamp and is not equipped with a center high-mount stop lamp at the rear of the cap (not required for vehicles with a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds).
8. A lamp or lens has damage that causes pooling water on the interior of the assembly, excluding condensation.
9. A colored lamp or lens is missing or broken, allowing white light to show.
10. If the vehicle is equipped with LED lamps, more than 50 percent of any one lamp is inoperable.

Procedure: Examine all other lamps attached to vehicle.

Note: All other nonrequired lamps that do not operate as designed are no longer fail criteria.

Advise customer if:

1. Any additional lighting is not functioning as designed or may be contrary to law (Code of Federal Regulations [49 CFR § 571.108](#), [23 V.S.A. § 1246](#) and [23 V.S.A. § 1247](#)).

ADVERTISING SIGNS:**Reject vehicle if:**

1. If a lighted advertising sign emits blue or red light to the front or rear. e.g., taxi, food delivery
2. Any color light emitted is so bright that it interferes with the vision of another vehicle operator approaching or following.

Note: Any vehicle displaying red or blue lights is required to have a permit under [23 V.S.A. § 1253](#). If a permit is not present, this is a fail criteria.

HEADLAMP AIMING

All equipment for testing headlamps must comply with the Society of Automotive Engineers Recommended Practice for Headlamps Inspection Equipment. When examining headlamps for illumination in accordance with [23 V.S.A. § 1246](#), if beams appear to be out of alignment, headlamp aim must be checked using one of the following methods.

1. **Photoelectric Testing Machine:** An approved photoelectric testing machine that will give essentially equivalent results.
2. **Headlamp-Testing Machine:** If a headlamp-testing machine is used, it must give results equivalent to those obtained using the screen procedure shown below. It must be in good repair and adjustment and must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The machine using a photoelectric cell or cells to determine aim should also have a screen upon which the beam pattern is projected proportional to its appearance and aim on a screen at 25 feet. This screen must be plainly visible to the operator and should have horizontal and vertical reference lines to permit a visual appraisal of the lamp beam.
3. **Headlamp Aiming by the Screen Method:** Use according to the manufacturer's instructions.
4. **Aiming Area Required:** It is desirable to have a specific aiming area in a darkened location. This area should be sufficient for the vehicle and an additional 25 feet, measured from the face of the lamps to the front of the screen.

The floor on which the car rests must be flat and level with the bottom of the screen. If the floor is not level, compensate.

BEFORE HEADLAMP AIMING

Procedure:

1. Remove excessive ice and mud from under fenders, bumpers, etc.
2. Inflate tires to specified pressures.
3. See that the vehicle contains no load other than the driver in his or her normal position.
4. Be sure lenses are clean and check for burned out bulbs and proper beam switching. Replace headlamps with cracked or broken aiming pads.
5. Check the suspension. See that the vehicle does not lean to one side or the other. Rock the vehicle sideways to free and equalize the suspension.

Procedure: Examine instrument cluster warning lamp(s), speedometer/odometer, defroster, and horn functionality.

Reject vehicle if:

1. The anti-lock braking system (ABS) failure indicator light or warning light does not illuminate.
2. The brake system failure indicator light or warning light remains illuminated after the engine is started and the parking brake is released.
3. The brake and/or antilock warning light remains on.
4. The airbag indicator fails to light or continuously flashes or illuminates.

Note: A vehicle used as a mail carrier under a contract with the U.S. Postal Service is not to fail inspection solely because, in its conversion to a right-hand drive vehicle, the right air bag in the front compartment has been disconnected or a non-factory disconnect switch has been installed to disable the airbag. See [23 V.S.A. § 1222\(e\)](#).

5. The horn fails to function on the steering wheel as designed.
6. The speedometer and/or odometer is not operational, not legible, or is obstructed from the vehicle operator's view.
7. The speedometer does not illuminate.
8. The front defroster fails to function.

VEHICLE GLASS

Automotive safety glazing is marked with the manufacturer's trademark and the letters "AS," followed by a number between 1 and 11. Only AS1 (or AS10 Bullet Resistant) may be used in the windshield. Safety glazing for 1966 and later models also has a glass manufacturer's model number or a DOT code number. [23 V.S.A. § 1242](#).

A person is prohibited from operating a Vermont-registered motor vehicle manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1936, on a highway in this state unless the vehicle is equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, and windshields.

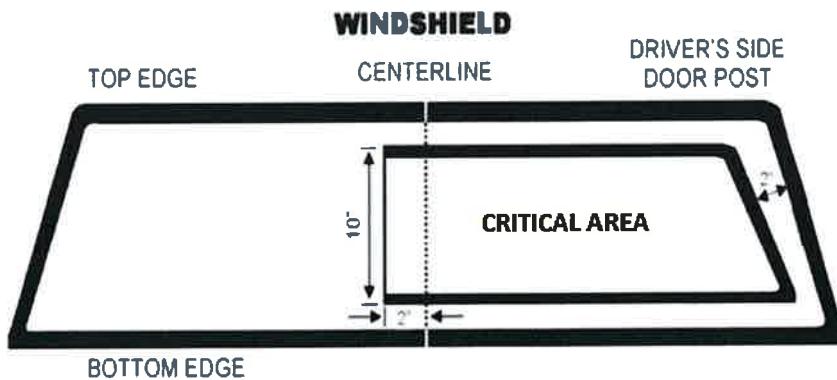
Procedure: Examine windshield.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Any nontransparent matter is present on any transparent part of the motor vehicle's windshield, except in a space not more than 4 inches high and 12 inches long in the lower right corner of the windshield, in such a location of any sticker required by governmental regulation, or in a space not more than 2 inches high and 2 1/2 inches long in the upper left corner of the windshield.
2. There is an aftermarket tint applied to the windshield.
3. The windshield is missing or does not conform to safety glass requirements.
4. Any crack is intersected by another crack in the critical area.
5. There are two or more star breaks or bullseyes larger than 1.5 inches within any part of the critical area.

Advise customer if:

1. There is any damage outside of the critical area.



CRITICAL AREA:

The critical area starts 2 inches in from the left front post and extends 2 inches past the center of the windshield.

The critical area is centered between the top and bottom of the windshield and is 10 inches in height.

Procedure: Examine side windows to the left and right of the driver.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Any nontransparent matter is present on any transparent part of the vent windows or side windows located immediately to the left and right of the driver.
2. Any manual or power-operated window fails to operate properly.
3. The vent/side windows do not conform to safety-glass requirements.

Advise customer if:

1. Windows to the driver's left and right contain aftermarket tint. These windows may be in violation of State Law [23 V.S.A. § 1125](#).

Procedure: Examine side windows to the rear of driver.

Reject vehicle if:

1. Any manual or power-operated window fails to operate properly.
2. The rear side windows do not conform to safety-glass requirements.

Procedure: Examine back window.

Reject vehicle if:

1. The back window does not comply with the safety standard of the manufacturer's specifications.

3. Portions of blades that contact the windshield are ripped or are missing sections of the rubber.
4. The windshield washer system is not capable of cleaning the critical area of the windshield.

Advise customer if:

1. The rear window wiper does not function.
2. Blades smear or severely streak the windshield after five cycles.
3. Headlight wipers or washers do not function.

Sheet Metal/Body

Reject vehicle if:

1. There is torn metal or corrosion which breaks the integrity of the sheet metal by passing through ANY nonstructural area of the vehicle that is not covered to ensure they are not a hazard.
2. Any hole is present that would allow gas fumes to enter the interior of the vehicle.
3. Loose or dislocated parts protrude from the surface of the vehicle that cannot be repaired or removed.
4. Sharp or jagged edges protrude from the bumper cover that cannot be repaired or removed.
5. The difference in height between the body floor and the top of the frame exceeds 4 inches.

Advise customer if:

1. There is torn metal or any perforation present on ANY nonstructural area of the vehicle. The mechanic should recommend the customer have the item repaired or replaced.

Note: Metal tape may be used to repair torn metal or perforation smaller than two (2) inches in diameter located on any nonstructural area of the vehicle.