

The bullet points listed below are to provide transparency and outline the expectations of an individual's knowledge when taking the safety inspector certification written examination. There is no particular order in which the information below is derived from and only serves as guidance for study preparation. Individuals taking the written examination shall not rely on the study guide during the examination and shall study every section of the Safety Inspection Manual to ensure a successful passing score.

19VAC30-70-1. Purpose and Authority.

- The program model is based on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Vehicles submitted for inspection must be compliant with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards applicable on the date of manufacture.
- The goal of the Official Motor Vehicle Inspection Program is to assure all Virginia registered vehicles are mechanically safe to operate over the highways of the Commonwealth.

19VAC30-70-2. Corrective action procedures.

- Unacceptable work performance shall be divided into four (4) groups of offenses based on the seriousness as they pertain to vehicle safety.

19VAC30-70-7. General information.

- All suspension or revocation decisions may be appealed. The request must be made in writing to the safety officer within 15 calendar days of receiving the official notice of suspension or revocation.
- For suspension periods of less than six months, inspection stations and safety inspectors will not be required to file an application for reinstatement.
- For suspension periods of six months or more, or revocation periods of one to three years, inspection stations must complete the process as set forth for original appointment. Reapplications may be made 60 days prior to the expiration of suspension periods only, not revocations. An inspection station that has its privilege to perform inspections revoked must complete the application process as set forth for original appointments after the expiration of the period of revocation.
- Safety inspectors who are suspended for suspension periods of six months or more shall contact the appropriate Safety Division Area Office or supervising trooper to request reinstatement. Safety inspectors who have their privilege to perform inspections revoked must complete the application process for initial certification after the expiration of the period of revocation.
- If during the course of an official investigation, station management voluntarily surrenders the station's inspection supplies, particularly after being cautioned not to do so, the station shall not be eligible for reinstatement for a period of 90 days. This voluntary action shall not be the subject of an appeal.
- If during the course of an official investigation, an inspector voluntarily surrenders his inspector's license, particularly after being cautioned not to do so, the inspector shall not be eligible for reinstatement for a period of 90 days. This voluntary action shall not be the subject of an appeal.

19VAC30-70-9. Inspector requirements.

- Each certified inspector shall possess a valid Virginia driver's license with the following exceptions; an inspector who is a resident of an adjoining state holding a valid driver's license in that state and

who commutes regularly to work in Virginia; or a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty, or a dependent thereof, who holds a driver's license from his home state.

- An inspector whose driver's license is suspended or revoked, including the seven-day administrative suspension for an arrest for driving under the influence (DUI), must immediately notify the station's supervising trooper or the local Safety Division Area Office of the suspension or revocation. The suspension or revocation of an inspector's driver's license shall automatically act as a suspension of his privilege to inspect motor vehicles until such suspension or revocation is terminated, and the reinstatement has been made by the Superintendent of State Police.
- Each licensed safety inspector must have a valid safety inspector's license in his possession at all times while conducting inspections.

#### 19VAC30-70-9.1. Inspector certification.

- The Class A examination will consist of five sections: general information, brakes, suspension, lights, and glass. Each section will contain 20 questions. A minimum score of 75% must be attained for each section and for the practical examination. The Class B and C examinations will consist of 50 questions each. A minimum score of 74 must be attained on the written and practical examination.

#### 19VAC30-70-9.2. Examinations for inspector's license.

- If the applicant desires to test again for the written or practical test, he may do so after 30 days. If the applicant is again unsuccessful in passing either examination, the trooper shall take the application forms and forward them to Safety Division Headquarters, Inspector Files Section. The applicant may contact his assigned Safety Division trooper or the local Safety Division Area Office after six months to reapply.
- Safety inspectors desiring to renew their inspector's license must participate in the recertification written examination.
- A safety inspector's license shall be valid for a period of three (3) years.

#### 19VAC30-70-9.3. Reinstatement of safety inspector license; classification change; recertification.

- If the inspector is suspended for less than six months, the safety inspector's license will be held at the local Safety Division Area Office and returned upon the expiration of the suspension period. A check will be made by the supervising trooper with Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) prior to reinstatement.
- Once a safety inspector's license has been suspended for a period of six months or more, regardless of the cause for suspension, no application Form SP-170B is required for reinstatement; however, Form SP-170D and Form SP-167 must be completed. The supervising trooper checks with DMV, all court jurisdictions, and the Central Criminal Records Exchange. The supervising trooper shall also review a credit report prior to reinstatement of the inspector.
- If the suspended inspector's license expires during the suspension period, the inspector may complete the process for inspector recertification as set forth in this section. The trooper administering the test will retain all documentation. The inspector's license will be returned at the end of the suspension period, if the suspended inspector's records indicate he is suitable for reinstatement, and the appropriate documents forwarded to the Safety Division.
- Inspectors whose safety inspector's licenses have been revoked must complete the application process for initial certification.

19VAC30-70-11. Automated Motor Vehicle Inspection Program (MVIP).

- Passwords or personal identification numbers (PINs) shall only be used by the person to whom they were assigned.
- Once a certified safety inspector completes an inspection, he will be required to immediately enter the inspection information via the MVIP system. In the event there is an MVIP or internet connection failure, inspectors will complete the corresponding receipt provided in the approval or rejection sticker book. A manual copy will be given to the customer or placed in the vehicle, while the original will remain in the book. Inspections performed during such outages shall be entered into MVIP by the inspector performing the inspections and done so by the close of business of the day MVIP connectivity is restored.
- One copy of the official safety inspection approval or rejection receipt shall be printed on 8-1/2 by 11 inch white paper and given to the customer or placed in the vehicle. The size of the print on the receipt shall not be reduced. In the event of MVIP or internet connection failure, the corresponding manual receipt from the book shall take the place of the MVIP generated receipt.
- The printed official inspection receipt number shall correspond with the issued decal.
- The complete vehicle identification number (VIN) shall be verified before submitting the inspection through the MVIP system and printing the official inspection receipt.
- When a station has a voided decal, it must be entered into MVIP by the inspector. Once entered, the receipt shall be printed, attached to the decal, and retained until the supervising trooper's next visit. The supervising trooper will be responsible for destroying the voided sticker and a Form SP-164 will not be required.
- Station management shall ensure that all stickers are accounted for and all information has been entered correctly into the MVIP system. Completed approval or rejection receipts shall be retained by the station for a period of six months. At the end of the six-month period, used receipts shall be destroyed by burning or shredding.

19VAC30-70-20. General inspection requirements.

- Out-of-state vehicles may be inspected, but shall not be approved unless they meet the requirements of the Official Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Manual.
- When a vehicle is presented for inspection, the previous approval sticker, if any, on the vehicle shall be removed and destroyed before any inspection is conducted (except a rejection sticker). For purposes of the safety inspection program, "destroyed" shall mean that the previous inspection sticker will be disposed of in a manner so it cannot be reused or placed on another vehicle's windshield. After removing the inspection sticker, the safety inspector who is to perform the inspection must drive the vehicle into an approved inspection lane unless the safety inspector is not qualified to operate the vehicle. During the operation of the vehicle, the safety inspector must make application of the service and parking brakes and check for conditions as set forth in the Service Brake Section of the Official Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Manual applicable to the vehicle being inspected.
- Inspections may be made when it is raining or snowing. Care must be exercised when making inspections in inclement weather. Vehicles covered with ice, snow, mud or other debris to the extent that required parts cannot be inspected, may be refused inspection until the operator removes such debris.

#### 19VAC30-70-25. Exceptions

- Exceptions to motor vehicle inspection requirements can be found in § 46.2-1158.01 of the Code of Virginia.
- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1158.01/>

#### 19VAC30-70-50. Approval stickers and decals.

- If the vehicle meets all inspection requirements, the certified safety inspector performing the inspection shall immediately enter the receipt information via the MVIP system.
- The inspection sticker is not valid unless the rear portion is completed with the vehicle make, year built, license plate number (dealer name if a dealer tag is displayed), body type, and the complete vehicle identification number (VIN). The inspection sticker shall be completed using black indelible ink.
- Extreme care should be used by inspectors when applying inserts. The sticker shall be placed at the bottom left corner of the windshield when viewed from the inside of the vehicle. The left edge of the sticker is to be placed as close as practical, but no closer than one inch to the left edge of the windshield when viewed from the inside of the vehicle. The top edge of the sticker is to be approximately four inches from the bottom of the windshield when viewed from the inside of the vehicle
- The MVIP system approval or rejection printed receipt shall be given to the owner or operator of the vehicle. In the event of an MVIP or internet connection failure, manual receipts from the approval and rejection books shall be utilized.

#### 19VAC30-70-60. Rejection stickers.

- Only one rejection sticker shall be issued to any one vehicle. A rejection sticker shall not be issued to any vehicle already bearing such a sticker or to one which bears evidence of previously being issued a rejection sticker. When a vehicle is bearing a valid or expired rejection sticker, it is not to be removed unless the vehicle meets all of the inspection requirements.
- Reinspection of a rejected vehicle by the same station during the 15-day validity of the rejection sticker need include only a check of the items previously found defective, unless there is an obvious equipment defect that would warrant further rejection of the vehicle. Such reinspection will not constitute a complete inspection and a \$1.00 fee may be charged. Furthermore, if a vehicle returns for reinspection within the 15-day period, the rejecting station will reinspect the vehicle without delay or at the reasonable conclusion of the current inspection being performed.
- If additional defects are detected during reinspection of a vehicle previously rejected, the vehicle will not be issued an approval sticker.
- A vehicle rejected by one station may be reinspected by another station if the owner desires to have this done; however, that station shall perform a complete inspection of the vehicle.
- If the vehicle does not meet all the requirements and the owner does not authorize immediate repairs, and if a rejection sticker has not already been issued, a rejection sticker shall be legibly filled out in its entirety with a black ball point pen. The certified safety inspector performing the inspection shall immediately enter the receipt information via the MVIP system. The complete vehicle identification number (VIN), tag number or car dealer name if a dealer tag is attached, mileage, year, make, and model shall be included. A circle to indicate which wheels were pulled to check the brakes and an individual mark shall be placed in each equipment block of the rejection sticker that

was pertinent to the rejection. In addition, information may be written on any blank area as to the exact nature of the rejection (i.e., front brakes vs. rear brakes). The date of issue shall be punched, and the sticker affixed to the same location as indicated in subsections C, E, and G of 19VAC30-70-50. (When affixed to a trailer or motorcycle, the face of the rejection sticker shall be attached to the trailer or motorcycle in order to allow the rejection data on the back side to be read.)

- The operator of the rejected vehicle shall be informed of the following: (1) the rejection sticker is valid for 15 days in addition to the date of inspection; (2) The rejection sticker places no travel restriction on the operation of the vehicle and is issued in lieu of an approval sticker; (3) The vehicle operator is legally responsible for any defect if operated on the highway and may be subject to a traffic summons for any existing equipment violation.

#### 19VAC30-70-80. Service brakes.

- Trailers having an actual gross weight of less than 3,000 pounds are not required to be equipped with brakes; however, if brakes are installed, these vehicles must be inspected.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – riveted linings or disc pads are worn to less than 2/32 of an inch over the rivet head(s).
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – bonded or molded linings or disc pads are worn to less than 2/32 of an inch in thickness.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – when tested on dry, hard, approximately level road free from loose material, at a speed of 20 miles per hour without leaving a 12-foot wide lane, results in excess of the following distances are obtained: (a) any motor vehicle (except motorcycles, trucks, and tractor-trucks with semitrailers attached) four wheel brakes - 25 feet; (b) any motor vehicle (except motorcycles, trucks, and tractor-trucks with semitrailers attached) two wheel brakes - 45 feet; (c) all combinations of vehicles - 40 feet.

#### 19VAC30-70-100. Brakes: trailer (GVWR less than 10,000 pounds).

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – breakaway braking devices are missing or inoperative or cable is frayed or broken, or trailers, manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1964, having an actual gross weight of 3,000 pounds or more are not equipped with emergency breakaway brakes designed to: (a) apply automatically upon breakaway from towing vehicle; (b) remain fully applied for at least 15 minutes; (c) apply and release by operation of the manual emergency control.
- Wheels on trailers equipped with open brake mechanisms are not required to be removed.

#### 19VAC30-70-110. Steering and suspension.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – any wheel bearing is excessively worn or not properly adjusted; any cotter key or other locking device is missing or inoperative.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – a spring is broken, sagging or misaligned, shackles are worn or loose, or if air bags are collapsed or the air suspension system leaks or is deflated.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – when checked visually, the wheels appear to be out of line or an axle is bent.

19VAC30-70-120. Frame, engine mounts, coupling devices and emergency chains.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – frame or unitized (monocoque) body of any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer possesses one or more of the following defective characteristics: rust holes; any area of the frame or its components is broken, cracked, sagging, or bent; or damaged at any location to include any welded joint; the frame is corroded to the point where it is weakened; or any holes are drilled in the top or bottom rail flanges of the frame or the frame or cross-member (except as specified by the manufacturer).
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – trailer hitch or pintle hook is not securely attached. Reject if the pintle eye or trailer drawbar has any cracks or if any welding repairs have been made to the pintle eye.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – fifth wheel does not lock in position or have a locking mechanism that is in proper working order.

19VAC30-70-130. Tires; wheels; rims.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – any tire has knots or bulges in its sidewalls or if there is evidence of a broken belt under the tread, or if the tread is separating from the fabric. Any cracks in the sidewall where separation in the rubber is detected or the fabric is exposed, not to include fine hairline cracks.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – Any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer, except the dual wheels installed on motor vehicles having seats for more than seven passengers (i) operated wholly within a municipality or (ii) operated by urban and suburban bus lines, which are defined as bus lines operating over regularly scheduled routes and the majority of whose passengers use the buses for traveling a distance not exceeding 40 miles, measured one way, on the same day between their place of abode and their place of work, shopping areas, or schools, is equipped with a tire that has a tread depth measuring less than  $\frac{2}{32}$  of an inch.

NOTE: The exemptions provided in (i) and (ii) of this paragraph do not apply to buses owned or operated by any public school district, private school or contract operator of buses.

- If both adjacent grooves measure less than  $\frac{2}{32}$  of an inch, the tire tread depth must be measured again at two additional equally spaced intervals around the circumference of the tire in a like manner as the first measurement.

19VAC30-70-150. Rear lamps: tail lamp; license plate lamps; and rear lamp combinations.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – license plate is not illuminated by an approved license plate lamp that emits a white light.

19VAC30-70-190. Signal device (intention to stop or turn), hazard lights, stop lamp.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – lens has a piece broken from it. The lens may have one or more cracks provided an off-color light does not project through the cracks. Taping or gluing cracks or pieces is not permitted.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – any vehicle has wire, unapproved lens or plastic covers, any other materials that are not original equipment or any colored material placed on or in front of the signal device (intention to stop or turn), hazard lights or stop lamp.

19VAC30-70-200. Permissible lighting equipment.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – lamps are not installed on the permanent structure of the vehicle with one as far to the rear and one as far forward as practicable and at a location which is not less than 15 inches above the road surface when measured from the center of the lamp

19VAC30-70-260. Hood latch system; batteries.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – a battery is not securely attached to a fixed part of the motor vehicle or trailer. A battery is not protected by a removable cover or enclosure if the battery is installed in a location other than the engine compartment.

19VAC30-70-300. Muffler, exhaust system and trailer venting.

- Trailers and Semitrailer Venting - Inspection of trailers and semitrailers will include a visual inspection of the venting of cooking or heating appliances to the outside of the trailer or semitrailer to determine if the heating and cooking appliances are adequately vented to the outside to prevent the asphyxiation of occupants of any trailer or semitrailer by the operation of the heating or cooking appliances.
  - Reject the trailer or semitrailer if not equipped with a vent or venting system to the outside.
  - Reject the trailer or semitrailer if there is any complete or partial obstruction of the vent or venting system.

19VAC30-70-440. Service brakes.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – Brake Hose and Tubing - There is any leakage in any hydraulic, air or vacuum lines; hoses have any cracks, crimps, restrictions, or are abraded exposing fabric into second ply of fabric; tubing or connections leak, are crimped, restricted, cracked, or broken.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – any hydraulic brake tubing has been repaired using a compression fitting.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – Electric Brakes - (a) trailers show an amperage value more than 20% above or 30% below the brake manufacturer's maximum current rating for each brake; (b) amp meter shows no reading or indicator is not steady on application and release of brake controller; (c) any terminal connections are loose or dirty; wires are broken, frayed or unsupported; any single conductor or nonstranded wire or wires below size recommended by brake manufacturers are installed; (d) electrical trailer brakes do not apply automatically when breakaway safety switch is operated; (e) absence of braking action on any wheel required to have brakes; (f) missing or inoperative breakaway braking device; cable is frayed or broken.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – nonsteering axles. Lining has a thickness less than 1/4 inch at the shoe center for air drum brakes, 1/16 inch or less at the shoe center for hydraulic and electric drum brakes and less than 1/8 inch for air disc brakes, lining with a thickness less than 3/16 inch for a shoe with a continuous strip of lining or to wear indicators if so equipped.

19VAC30-70-460. Brakes: trailer (GVWR 10,000 pounds or more).

- All trailers and semitrailers having an actual gross weight of 10,000 pounds or more shall be equipped with operational brakes acting on all wheels.

19VAC30-70-480. Suspension.

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – sliding trailer tandem or multi-axle assemblies do not lock in place or have worn, broken or missing parts.

19VAC30-70-490. Frame, engine mounts, coupling devices and emergency chains.

- Fifth wheel assembly systems do not require an emergency chain or cable. A fifth wheel is defined as a device which interfaces with and couples to the upper coupler assembly of a semitrailer. The upper coupler assembly is a structure consisting of an upper coupler plate, king pin and supporting framework which interfaces with and couples to a fifth wheel. Ball and socket connections also referred to as hitch and coupling connections are not fifth wheel assemblies and do require an emergency chain or steel cable.

19VAC30-70-550. Clearance lamps, side marker lamps, and reflectors (under 26,000 pounds GVWR).

- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or other vehicle is not equipped with clearance lamps if the vehicle is over seven feet wide or if any portion extends four inches or more outside the front fender line.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – two amber lamps are not mounted on the front and two red lamps on the rear, so as to indicate the extreme width of the body, and as high on the permanent body as practical, except that approved 180 degree lamps with yellow or amber lens may be mounted on the side of the vehicle at or as near the front as possible, or if the front is not the widest portion, the lamps may be installed on the side and as near that point as possible.
- Inspectors are required to inspect for and reject if – except school buses, is not equipped with amber reflectors on the sides as near the front as practical, and red reflectors on the rear. The reflectors must be at least 15 inches and not more than 60 inches from the ground. No reflector can have a piece broken from its reflective surface, but may have one or more cracks.