

Vehicle Safety and Standards

BULLETIN

To All Designated Inspection Facilities and Authorized Inspectors

Re: New BC Vehicle Inspection Manual

On August 30, 2010, a new version of the British Columbia Vehicle Inspection Manual will be released by Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement (CVSE) and will replace the current Vehicle Inspection Manual (dated December 2001). The new Vehicle Inspection Manual (the Manual) is enacted by a Ministers' Regulation, the Vehicle Inspection Regulation, under the authority of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, and specifies the minimum mechanical standards required for a vehicle to pass the BC Commercial and Private Vehicle Inspection Programs. The Manual comes into force August 30, 2010, but a 45 day transitional period will be given to ensure an ample opportunity for all facility operators and authorized inspectors to obtain and become familiar with the new Manual. As of October 15, 2010 vehicle inspections must be conducted in accordance with all criteria and standards contained in the new Manual to be considered compliant.

Overview:

The revision of the Vehicle Inspection Manual:

- Includes all vehicle types to ensure accuracy with Provincial and Federal regulations;
- Provides improved consistency with other Canadian jurisdictions; and
- Addresses vehicle technology and vehicle component safety matters, adding or changing appropriate criteria where required.

The manual is an inspection document, outlining the standards and criteria to which vehicles are inspected, with minimal administrative information and guidelines.

What has changed?

- Expansion of Vehicle Inspection Manual to include several new vehicle types, such as 3 wheeled vehicles, and a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) section.
- Addition of several new tool requirements for facilities.
- Removal of "General Information" section as part of the Manual. Information for Designated Inspection Facility (DIF) operators and Authorized Inspectors (AIs) will be contained in a separate document titled "Vehicle Inspection Guide". This document will be available on-line and will be updated regularly.
- Enhancement of page formatting and sequential document page numbering.
- Expansion of and enhanced definition section.

There have been many revisions and edits throughout the Manual. Some notable changes for inspection standards and criteria include:

- Motorcycles, restricted use motorcycles, 3 wheeled vehicles, neighborhood zero emission vehicles and VIN's;
- Ubilt, replicar, replikit and specialty vehicles;
- Lighting components;
- Brakes;
- Compliance labels;
- External sun visors;
- Raised vehicles;
- Noise emissions; and
- Air bags.

Facilities must have the revised Vehicle Inspection Manual:

DIF operators are reminded that under the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations (MVAR), section 25.12 (1)(f), they are required to have the appropriate manuals. This requires that once the new Vehicle Inspection Regulation (formerly called the Inspection Standards (Safety and Repair) Regulation) comes into force on August 30, 2010, you must have access on line, or keep a printed copy at your facility. A 45 day transitional period until October 15, 2010 will provide additional time to obtain and ensure familiarity with the new Manual. The revised Manual can be obtained through Queen's Printer at the contact information set out below.

MVAR s. 25.12 (1) The operator of a designated inspection facility must:

(f) ensure that

(i) the facility is equipped with proper tools, appliances, devices, manuals and documents, as required by the standards, to enable operators within the facility to manage it efficiently and authorized persons to ensure that vehicles comply with the standards,

(ii) each authorized person at the facility conducts his or her inspection in accordance with the standards and complies with section 25.13, and

(iii) the facility has available on the premises

(A) an up-to-date copy of the Inspection Standards (Safety and Repair) Regulation, and

(B) the most recent publicly available copy of Division 25 of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations.

Designated inspection facility operators and authorized inspectors are encouraged to obtain and review the Vehicle Inspection Manual and the Vehicle Inspection Guide as soon as possible following release to familiarize themselves with all changes that are applicable to the vehicle(s) presented for inspection at their facilities. As of October 15, 2010, enforcement under applicable MVAR will commence for any violations.

Where is the new manual and guide document available?

- The Queen's Printer of BC will have the manual available from its website at: <http://www.vsis.qp.gov.bc.ca/default.htm>. The *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA), Motor Vehicle Act Regulations (MVAR), bulletins, notices and compliance circulars applicable to the Inspection Programs are also available at this site.
- The Vehicle Inspection Guide, lighting guide and other reference documents will be available from the CVSE website at www.cvse.ca.

Additionally, DIF operators and AIs should be aware that recent amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* and Motor Vehicle Act Regulations are now in effect. The new amendments allow for the enhanced authority of CVSE Inspectors to conduct compliance inspections on vehicles located at facilities, and improved authority for the Director of CVSE to suspend, cancel and / or set conditions on both facilities and authorized inspectors that contravene program and regulatory requirements.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the new manual or any of the related documents, please contact your local area vehicle inspector found at http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/vehicle_inspections/PDF/MVI_Phone_List.pdf or Brian.Kangas@gov.bc.ca by phone at 250-953-4008.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Kangas".

Brian Kangas
Program Coordinator, Vehicle Safety & Standards
Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement