

Vehicle Inspection and Standards Bulletin

Re: Sale of Motor Vehicles Not Meeting Motor Vehicle Act or Regulations

This bulletin provides important information to motor dealers and sales staff regarding the safety standards and regulations applicable to vehicles imported into the province of British Columbia.

Vehicles manufactured within the last 15 years must meet the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS). CMVSS is regulated by Transport Canada and establishes the safety standards to which vehicles are constructed. All road users benefit from these standards. Examples of the standards include: daytime running lamps, side marker lamps and reflectors, occupant protection such as seat belts and the anchorage, windshields and window glass.

Although they may or may not meet the applicable CMVSS, Transport Canada does not restrict the importation of 15 years old or older vehicles into Canada. However, all provincial jurisdictions require an inspection of these vehicles before they can be registered and licenced for highway use. In BC, the inspection criteria adopt some components of CMVSS to ensure road users continue to benefit from established safety standards.

Recently, the importation of vehicles 15 years old and older into Canada has increased significantly. As required by provincial regulation, vehicles imported into BC must pass an inspection prior to being registered and licenced. However, many of the vehicles were not manufactured for the Canadian market and lack the required safety devices or equipment. Some examples include the absence of rear side markers and reflectors, a requirement since 1971.

The required provincial inspection must be performed at a designated inspection facility by an authorized inspector using the criteria listed in the Vehicle Inspection Manual. If the vehicle passes the criteria and meets applicable *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* (MVAR) requirements, the authorized inspector must issue a passed report and a certificate of approval.

The Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement Branch (CVSE), Vehicle Inspection and Standards Program administers the vehicle inspection program and has become aware of vehicles that have been issued passed inspection reports and decals while not in compliance with the inspection criteria or the MVAR. Vehicle Inspection and Standards Bulletin 02/06 was released February 8, 2006 to remind all designated inspection facilities and authorized inspectors of the applicable inspection criteria.

In accordance with section 222 of the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA), all vehicles for sale, offered for sale, exposed for sale or delivered over to a purchaser for use a motor vehicle, trailer or equipment must be in accordance with the MVA and the MVAR.

CVSE met with some importers to discuss options for ensuring safety standards of the imported vehicles meet or exceed the applicable standards. One available option is to submit a vehicle of each model year and make to a qualified engineer to verify the vehicle meets or exceeds the applicable CMVSS. If you suspect a vehicle on your lot does not comply, for example, a vehicle newer than 1971 that does not have rear side markers, please contact a designated inspection facility and make arrangements for the vehicle to be inspected.

Questions may be directed to your local Motor Vehicle Inspector. Contact numbers are available on the CVSE website at:

http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/vehicle_inspections/PDF/MVI_Phone_List.pdf

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Woods', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Woods
Manager, Vehicle Inspection and Standards