

1. Why is the Motor Vehicle Inspection program changing?

We listened to the concerns of Nova Scotians and reviewed our program as well as those in place across Canada and around the globe. The program is being re-designed to make it more in line with national and international motor vehicle inspection programs. We are making changes that will balance road safety and consumer protection for all Nova Scotians.

2. What are the changes being made to the program?

Beginning April 1, 2009:

- New type 1 vehicles do not require an inspection for the first three years provided the dealer completes a pre-delivery inspection or motor vehicle inspection.
- All used type 1 vehicles to be inspected every two years.
- If a vehicle with a valid inspection sticker fails an inspection, vehicle owner may request that the sticker be retained to allow him/her to get a second opinion.
- Complaint system will no longer require a second opinion prior to being reviewed by the department.

Beginning June 1, 2009

- Inspection manual to be reviewed
 - to remove items which are low risk or not associated with road safety
 - clarify subjective areas
- After initial inspection, some components that owners can easily check for themselves, will no longer require inspection.
- When selling a vehicle, inspection sticker must not be more than 30 days old or buyer must sign agreement acknowledging purchase of vehicle "as is".
- Increase inspection time frame to 30 days from 10 days when vehicles enter the province.

3. When do these changes take effect?

A two-tiered approach will be taken to implement the new MVI program. Some changes will already be introduced on April 1, 2009. The full program will be in effect on June 1, 2009.

4. **Are there changes in the cost of inspection?**

No, the inspection cost remains the same for all vehicles.

5. **Do the changes only apply to passenger vehicles and light trucks?**

In addition to passenger cars and light trucks, the changes apply to all other Type 1 vehicles including trucks and trailers under 4501 kg, motorcycles, motor-homes, and travel trailers.

6. **What about inspections for commercial vehicles such as large trucks ?**

All Type 2 vehicles still require annual inspection. These include trucks over 4500 kg, trailers over 4500 kg, taxis, ambulances, fire vehicles, tow trucks, hearses, and buses not licensed as public passenger vehicles.

7. **My car's inspection sticker is up this coming September. Does this mean that I don't need to have my car inspected until September 2011?**

No. You will need to have your vehicle inspected before the sticker expires. If your vehicle passes inspection, a sticker will be placed on your type 1 vehicle that will be good for two years or for one year if a type 2 vehicle.

8. **What about my car that's due for an inspection in May? Does this mean that I need to have it inspected in May this year and again in May next year, before I can get an inspection sticker that's good for two years?**

No. If your vehicle passes inspection in May, you will be issued a two-year sticker if a type 1 vehicle and one-year sticker if a type 2 vehicle. .

9. **How can we be sure that vehicles are roadworthy when they are only inspected every two years?**

The Motor Vehicle Inspection program is just one of the many ways the Province promotes road safety. Vehicle owners also have a role to play by ensuring that their cars are well-maintained and by driving safely.

10. **Will wheels still need to be removed to inspect the brakes?**

Removing the wheels is the only way to view the brake's internal parts. For vehicles equipped with brake drums, it is also necessary to remove the drum to inspect the brake components.

11. Doesn't removing brake drums damage the internal components?

Possibly, if the drum has been in-place for a significant period of time. If the inspector is having difficulty removing the brake drum, he/she is required to inform the vehicle owner of the situation and get approval before removing the drum.

12. What has changed in the complaint process?

Vehicle owners no longer need to get a second opinion before they register their complaints with the department.

We've also looked some of the other concerns of vehicle owners. One such change we will make is that if a vehicle with a valid inspection sticker fails an inspection, the owner may request that the sticker be retained to allow him/her to get a second opinion.

13. How can you be sure that vehicle owners are capable of checking some of the items you removed in the inspection list?

The items removed from the inspection list are components that can easily be checked by vehicle owners. These components, where applicable, include the horn, windshield wipers, lights, mirrors and coupling devices/ towing connections.

14. Have testers/inspection stations been informed of these changes?

The Department will conduct training for close to 3,000 testers to educate them on the program changes.

15. If the MVI program of Nova Scotia is consistent with other provinces in Canada, do I still need to have my car inspected if I got it from another province or vice-versa?

Driving and road conditions vary from province to province. Therefore, it is a safety practice to continue inspecting cars brought into the province from other places, to test if they are roadworthy for Nova Scotia's roads. Also, other jurisdictions might have different motor vehicle standards to maintain.

16. What do you mean by additional road-side checks?

The Department currently inspects some 300 vehicles at roadside together with various police agencies to check the roadworthiness of vehicles. The number of road-side checks will be increased to help keep our roads safer.

17. Do we really need to have a motor vehicle inspection program?

The age of the vehicle, driving habits, weather conditions, and type of roads all contribute to the wear of a vehicle. Given this, the inspection process is one more preventive measure to help protect our roads and our families.

18. Who or where do we go if we have complaints about the inspection process?

You may call (902) 424-5851 or toll-free at 1-800-898-7668 for complaints about a motor vehicle inspection.

19. Where do I go to get more information about the new Passenger Motor Vehicle Inspection program?

For more information, you may call (902) 424-5851 or toll-free at 1-800-898-7668.