

Kyle White
Presque Isle Police

Most who I have known to advocate for no inspection are concerned they cannot get an inspection sticker on vehicles that do not meet the standard due to aftermarket parts and alterations like wide tires, loud exhaust, dark tint etc. What people generally don't realize is inspection law is a two-way street (no pun intended). For every big, expensive, exotic vehicle that wouldn't need a sticker in the event the state abolishes the process there is also a 1995 Honda Accord rolling down the street in front of you who's exhaust is about to fall off and wreck your vehicle.

However, with that being said, the inspection manual is grossly over exaggerated, in my honest opinion. I believe there is a significant amount of requirements in the manual aimed at the shops making money. Especially if they can convince someone who doesn't know much about cars, they need work for a sticker that they don't actually need. Also, if its already a 29-A (motor vehicle code) violation then why is it in the inspection manual? Inspection is about crash reduction only. What about expired registration or no front registration plate is going to reduce crashes? The manual could be greatly reduced to a list of reasons the vehicle won't pass because it will cause a crash. This would greatly reduce the restrictions and save the consumers a significant amount of money while also reducing back log at the shops. Also, this would pass the "straight face test" that the inspection manual is honestly to keep unsafe vehicles off the road and nothing more.

Furthermore, registration for example, is a criminal violation to not have one at all. Not just expired but never registered, registered to the previous owner after a private sale, etc. Registration expired more than 150 days is also a criminal violation. Problem is I have never, in 10 years of law enforcement and 16 years in the fire service, seen a registration violation cause a crash. Although, it's generally a crime excluding those expired 30-150 days. So, someone who gets charged and convicted of registration, expired more than 150 days, has to admit they have been convicted of a crime every time they want to apply for a job, school, military or etc.? But inspection (formulated for crash reduction and with life safety in mind) is always a traffic infraction only, \$148 fine no matter what. No sticker (at all, ever) or expired by 31 days or 31 years, doesn't matter, TI, \$148 fine. I don't say this because I think inspection should be criminal, but rather a different amount dependent upon the violation. For example, 30-150 days expired could still be \$148, or less. Maybe \$85 like a first offense seat belt or first offense talking on a cell phone while driving which is \$50 fine plus surcharges and fees. No inspection or expired more than 150 days (same as registration) could be \$326. \$326 is the same fine as no insurance (at all, not just failing to produce) and operating after suspension. Which is about \$250 plus surcharges and fees.

If the issue was honestly about crash reduction it would be simple and agreeable. But, to the rank and file out working the road, and the consumer, it seems more about money. The manual should be simpler, the consequences should be considerate to the infraction, and if it's already a violation somewhere else it's redundant. We should also address the ideology behind color of stickers. It seems whomever comes up with the annual color change for inspection and/or registration has never had to try and read a registration sticker and color, inspection sticker color and cut out, check seat belt, and speed, all while traveling 55 mph in one direction while the other travels 55 mph (or more) in the opposite direction. That's a 110+ mph closing speed with a lot of information to be gained. What's worse is when the stickers are different colors and you have to keep track of what year is what color, the inspection sticker is reflective silver with the sun shining on the windshield or in your eyes, or the sticker is gold and the car has a tan interior or the sun is setting behind the car.

These are just a few examples of issues we see that others may not realize because they have never been on the enforcement side of the debate. However, there is no reason the sticker color can't stick out better, be glow in the dark at night, and the registration sticker and inspection stickers be the same color for the same year. As in, if the 2021 inspection is blue so is the 2021 registration, last year's inspection was yellow so last year's registration should have been yellow, purple before that, etc. I would employ anyone involved in this process to

schedule a ride along with their local municipal Police Department, Trooper, or Deputy. Any of which can point out first hand exactly what I mean by the above-mentioned issues plus many more and give the powers at be a chance to make the appropriate changes and decisions with first hand knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrolman Kyle J. White
Presque Isle Police