

Stakeholder Consultation Background Information

Vehicle Inspection Program

Introduction

Ontario is integrating the emissions testing program for heavy-diesel vehicles with its vehicle safety program, the Motor Vehicle Inspection Station program, to create a new integrated vehicle safety and emissions inspection program as part of provincial efforts to reduce burden to business and transition to digital services. With this integration, the Ministry of Transportation will leverage the experience of a vendor to deliver the program to inspection stations. Stakeholder input is critical to prepare for final program design, regulations, technology supports and development of an implementation strategy. This document provides background information for your organization to prepare for planned consultation, beginning with a virtual overview of the program and followed by sector workshops.

Accessing Services

The ministry is committed to providing accessible services that serve the public and carrier community with integrity and are responsiveness to concerns.

- Stations will continue to be available and accessible across the province. All current Motor Vehicle Inspection Stations will have the opportunity to transition to the new program and continue offering inspection services. The ministry anticipates that a public facing website will include information for consumers on inspection stations, including location and types of inspections offered.
- The cost of vehicle inspection will continue to be market driven. Stations will pay fees to the ministry based on real time certificate usage. This means, at the time a certificate is issued, the issuing station will purchase the digital certificate from the ministry and subsequently issue to the customer. The certificate will be digital, with the ability to print for customers, and inspections results will be uploaded directly to the government vehicle records to facilitate transactions at Service Ontario.
- The new program delivery structure will enhance the integrity of both inspections and station oversight. A qualified vendor will closely monitor non-compliant stations and will be able to suspend the ability to issue certificates when warranted. Where technicians have uncertainty during an inspection, the vendor will provide accessible information and resources and the ability to utilize photos in support of the inspection.
- Both service providers and consumers will have access to a complaints process that will be triaged to provide the fastest resolution through the vendor. Results of complaints and concerns will be reported to the ministry for identification of needed compliance interventions.

Inspections

PMCVI – emissions integrated test

*for vehicles subject to annual/semi annual PMCVI inspection and an emission test

- The current safety inspection components and requirements will not change with the transition to the new program. Ontario will continue to align with the National Safety Code Standard 11B.
- The inspection will require an enhanced emissions component inspection as well as an emission test, thus integrating the two currently required inspections.

PMCVI – non-emission test

*for vehicles subject to annual/semi annual PMCVI inspection but exempt from an emission test (non-diesel, trailer etc)

- The current safety inspection components and requirements will not change with the transition to the new program. Ontario will continue to align with the National Safety Code Standard 11B.

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SSC

*for vehicles requiring a safety inspection to facilitate ownership transfer or plate issue

- The current safety inspection components and requirements will not change with the transition to the new program, although requirements may transition out of Regulation 611 and be achieved through a ministry issued Directive to facilitate timely updates as vehicle equipment continues to modernize.

SIC

*for vehicles requiring a structural inspection to facilitate brand change and plate issue

- The current inspection components and requirements will not change with the transition to the new program, although requirements may transition into a ministry issued Directive. Changes to who will be able to apply to have a brand reclassified are also under consideration.

Compliance

On Road

- MTO will partner with MECP in early 2021 to begin inspections of commercial vehicles for emissions compliance. Effective July 1, 2021, emission inspections will be conducted, when required, as part of MTO's on road inspection program. Officers will have authority under the Highway Traffic Act to both conduct inspections and act accordingly when non-compliance is determined. To facilitate the on-road inspection program, emission standards and requirements will be transferred to the Highway Traffic Act.

Vehicle Registration/Renewal

- To further ensure all commercial vehicles are obtaining the annual inspections within legislative timeframes, the ministry will link the renewal of plates to passed test results. Similar to the current validation of an emission test, Service Ontario and IRP offices will require proof of passed inspection prior to renewal.
- Certificates will be digitally issued and automatically be uploaded to the database keeping plate renewals a seamless transaction.

Inspection Process

- Oversight of stations providing inspection services will support a uniform process and assessment. With the transition from paper-based products to a digital system, the ministry will have access to all compliance and inspection data. This provides an enhanced opportunity to review station performance and act where needed.
- As part of the oversight the vendor will have the capacity to retain inspection photos and undertake real-time monitoring if required.

Inspection Stations

Services will continue to be delivered by the strong network of inspection stations and garages. MTO and the vendor will work with stations to reduce burden and enhance oversight, achieving quality, safety, and clean vehicles.

- Currently stations are managed by MTO and subject to annual renewal as well as bulk stock orders. This will transition to a longer-term contractual relationship between the ministry and inspection centres, eliminating the need for annual renewals. Stock will become digital and purchased as part of the online program eliminating the need for stations to purchase and secure paper-based inventory.
- Stations will have an oversight and support relationship with the ministry's service vendor. Stations will be able to access support, equipment and respond to complaints. Stations will also be subject to oversight by vendor, under ministry defined operating standards. Based on these performance expectations, the vendor will be authorized by the ministry to lock out any station found to be non-compliant until corrective action is taken.
- Once a service vendor is selected, they will be responsible for ensuring stations have the necessary equipment to participate in the inspection program, including emission readers, tablets, cameras, printers as required and access to the integrated software that supports issuing a certificate.

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- Transition from the current MVIS program to the new environment will be done incrementally and with as little business disruption as possible. We'll be seeking your advice and input to finalize an implementation plan that will begin in late 2021 and conclude in 2023.

Next Steps

Thank you for taking the time to review this background program information. To participate in this consultation please contact Sumeet Gill by email Sumeet.Gill2@Ontario.ca before Nov 20th, 2020. For stakeholders that would like to include association members in the consultation, the ministry will accept a limited number of carriers to participate. Please contact Dawn Stevely by email Dawn.Stevely@Ontario.ca to discuss your proposed carrier participants.

Overview Presentation (virtual)

- All participants will be invited to one of several sessions designed to provide a detailed overview of the program design as well as safety and air quality standards to be achieved through the inspection process.
- Multiple sessions will be offered to accommodate the largest number of participants and provide timing options that work within contributor schedules. Once dates and times have been identified you will be invited to select a session to attend.

Sector Workshops (virtual)

- Following delivery of the overview material, individual workshops will be organized based on sector groups, such as transit, specialized industry, trucking, etc. When you register for the overview session, please indicate the nature of your business operations to assist in developing useful sector workshops for all.
- The sector workshops are intended to identify unique challenges and opportunities this program modernization presents. Industry input is critical to ensure a seamless transition and collectively develop fair solutions to group concerns.

Regulatory and Environmental Registry Posting

- In Spring 2021, the ministry will post proposed Highway Traffic Act changes to the regulatory and environmental registries. This regulatory change is expected to take effect July 1, 2021 and will encompass inclusion of emission standards into the HTA as well as extend officer authorities to address emission compliance.
- In Fall 2021, the ministry will again post proposed Highway Traffic Act changes to the regulatory and environmental registries. This regulatory change is expected to take effect Jan 1, 2022 and will encompass all changes to the delivery of the Vehicle Inspection Program and transition inspection standards from regulation to ministry Directive.
- Stakeholders and businesses will have an opportunity to provide written comment to these registry postings, in addition to input and advice gathered during workshops.

Implementation Presentation (virtual)

- Subsequent to the completion of all sector workshops, a final series of presentations will be scheduled to allow attendees the opportunity to see the input and solutioning of all groups and the anticipated implementation plan.