



Frequently Ask Questions: Inspections, Tags, and Metal Plates

January 1, 2025: Vehicle safety inspections go away.

- Q. What do you mean inspections go away January 1, 2025?
- A. House Bill (HB) 3297 eliminates the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program for non-commercial vehicles beginning January 1, 2025. Effective January 1, 2025, non-commercial vehicles will no longer need a vehicle safety inspection prior to registration.
- Q. What is a “non-commercial vehicle”?
- A. Chapter 548 of the Transportation Code governs safety inspections. It does not define “non-commercial vehicle.” It has a lengthy definition of a “commercial motor vehicle” which you can find in section 548.001: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/TN/htm/TN.548.htm>.
- Q. I still don’t understand.
- A. Non-commercial vehicles that currently require a safety inspection will no longer have to obtain a safety inspection effective January 1.
- Q. Does this mean I no longer have to pay any fees?
- A. No. All non-commercial vehicles in the state will be subject to a \$7.50 inspection program replacement fee. This fee will be added to the total due for initial registration and when annual registration is renewed. For new motor vehicles, the initial inspection program replacement fee is \$16.75 and covers two years.
- Q. Are emissions inspections going away? Why or why not?
- A. Emissions inspections will remain. Federal laws and regulations require states to act when air quality reaches a certain threshold.
- Q. Does everyone need to have a passing emissions inspection?
- A. No. Currently, only gasoline-powered motor vehicles between 2 and 24 years old registered and primarily operated in one of 17 counties in Texas require an emissions inspection: Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Tarrant, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Travis, and Williamson Counties. On November 1, 2026, Bexar County will join this list.

Q. How does this affect 2-step-1-sticker?

A. You will still receive a registration sticker. Prior to obtaining the sticker, you must either have a passing emissions inspection (if your vehicle is registered and primarily operated in an emissions county) and pay the \$7.50 fee, or simply pay the \$7.50 program replacement fee (if your vehicle is registered and primarily operated in a non-emissions county).

July 1, 2025: Metal plates replace temporary tags, and all dealers will be required to use webDEALER.

Q. Will all counties be required to participate in webDEALER? Why?

A. Yes. H.B. 718 mandates the use of webDEALER for motor vehicle dealers. Statute already requires a county to provide webDEALER access to a dealer that requests it. In addition, H.B. 718 eliminates paper tags and implements the use of metal plates in lieu of paper tags.

Q. How do I sign up for webDEALER?

A. Contact your local county tax office.

Q. Will I be able to receive a waiver from the requirement to use webDEALER?

A. All motor vehicle transactions will have to be processed in webDEALER effective July 1, 2025. If the system prevents processing, the dealer may submit to the county for processing outside of webDEALER. We will continue to enhance programming.

Q. Will salvage transactions have to be processed through webDEALER?

A. No. webSALVAGE is the Department's web-based application for processing salvage and nonrepairable title applications. For more information on accessing and using webSALVAGE, visit www.txdmv.gov and search "webSALVAGE User Guide."

Q. What training is available for webDEALER?

A. The TxDMV offers webDEALER 101 and webDEALER 102 at no additional cost. Sign up here: <https://www.txdmv.gov/calendar>.

Q. You said tags are going away. How will this work?

A. General issue metal plates will replace buyer temporary tags. Other color-coded plates for specific uses will be available. More information to come.

Q. How can I stay informed of the changes that are coming?

A. To receive e-mail and/or text updates from the TxDMV about upcoming changes, subscribe to govDelivery at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXDMV/subscriber/new>. Information will also be shared with stakeholder groups, at TxDMV Board meetings which you can view live from the TxDMV's website, and at our monthly dealer training seminars. Additionally, information will be readily available on our website, www.txdmv.gov.