



## Vehicle Inspection Program Newsletter

March 2013

### eFacility Has Arrived!

Alberta Transportation officially launched its eFacility program in May. eFacility allows Inspection Facilities to complete inspection certificates and record of inspections online, rather than completing carbon copy forms. **Facilities are now invited to sign up for this new online program.**

#### Benefits of eFacility:

- No need to purchase Record of Inspection forms
- No need to purchase Out of Province or Salvage inspection certificates
- The cost of Commercial Vehicle Inspection Decals has been reduced from \$63/book to \$24/book
- No more rejected inspection certificates
- No need to mail in green copies of inspection certificates
- Warning messages if the facility or technician licences are due to expire in the next 30 days
- Automatically populates vehicle information from the motor vehicle database
- Provides a central location for reference material
- No cost to sign up!

Facilities will need to contact the Vehicle Safety Section to obtain a user ID for eFacility. Each facility is responsible for determining individuals at their facility that require access to eFacility. Users do not need to be a technician in the Vehicle Inspection Program, but the Inspection Facility is ultimately responsible for any and all inspections it issues in the eFacility program.

**Once a facility has signed up to use the eFacility program, it is not able to continue using carbon copy inspection certificates. Facilities are encouraged to use the majority of their inspection certificate inventory prior to contacting the Vehicle Safety Section for user ID's, as Transtrue will not be refunding unused inspection certificates. *NOTE – Commercial vehicle inspection facilities will be able to keep a partial pad of carbon Commercial Vehicle Inspection Certificates. These certificates are only to be used to replace certificates that were previously rejected.***

Additional information on eFacility can be found in the 'eFacility User Guide' (click [here](#) to view).

### How to Get Started:

1. Identify all the unused inspection certificates at the facility.
2. Identify who at the facility should have a user ID.
3. Provide the full name, technician number or date of birth, driver's licence number **and** email address for each user.
4. Email the list of unused inspection certificates and requested users to [trans.efacility@gov.ab.ca](mailto:trans.efacility@gov.ab.ca)
5. Wait for a Vehicle Inspection Program Records Analyst to contact you.

If you have additional questions or concerns about the eFacility program, please contact a Vehicle Inspection Program Records Analyst at [trans.efacility@gov.ab.ca](mailto:trans.efacility@gov.ab.ca) or by calling 780-427-8901, toll free within Alberta by first dialing 310-0000.

### 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT INFORMATION: OUT OF PROVINCE AND SALVAGE VEHICLE

Recently, the Department has been receiving complaints with regards to Inspection Facilities charging for 4-wheel alignments that are not required. The following information is provided to eliminate any confusion with regards to 4-wheel alignment requirements.

The following wheel alignment guidelines **must** be followed:

- 1) 4-wheel alignments must be performed on all salvage vehicles;
- 2) 4-wheel alignments should be performed on all out of province vehicles with a "rebuilt" status (the vehicle status can be found on the Request for Inspection);
- 3) 4-wheel alignments should be performed on any lifted or lowered vehicle presented for an Out of Province Vehicle Inspection;
- 4) A 4-wheel alignment must be performed on any out of province vehicle exhibiting any of the following conditions:
  - a) There is evidence of collision damage or recent structural repairs
  - b) Premature or abnormal tire wear
  - c) New tires on a used vehicle (not required if old tire wear can be verified as normal)
  - d) Off center steering wheel
  - e) New steering or suspension components
  - f) Abnormal road test results
  - g) Any condition exists that, in the opinion of the inspecting technician, warrants an alignment
- 5) If a customer produces a 4-wheel alignment printout dated within 30 days of the date the vehicle was presented for the initial inspection, that printout shall be accepted in lieu of a 4-wheel alignment;
- 6) A Facility may do an alignment as part of every OOP inspection performed but the rates posted for the OOP inspection must include the cost of the 4-wheel alignment;
- 7) If an alignment is required and is not included in the posted rate the Inspection Facility must contact the customer for approval.

Any questions regarding the information above should be directed to the Motor Vehicle Inspection Specialist by emailing [Vehicle.Safety@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Vehicle.Safety@gov.ab.ca) or calling 780-427-6798, toll free within Alberta by first dialing 310-0000.

## SAFETY SYSTEM INTEGRITY VERIFICATION

Every vehicle presented for an Out of Province Vehicle Inspection or Salvage Vehicle Inspection must have the integrity of its safety systems verified through **communication** with the applicable control module(s).

One of the licensing conditions for an Out of Province Vehicle Inspection Facility is a diagnostic scan tool capable of scanning Asian, Domestic, and European vehicles updated to within 2 years of the current **model** year. Within 2 years of the current model year is a **minimum** requirement and an Inspection Facility must be aware of limitations that their diagnostic equipment may have.

**NOTE** - Vehicle information **must** be entered into a scan tool exactly as it appears on the VIN, i.e. if the 10<sup>th</sup> digit indicates 2012 then 2012 must be entered into the tool.

Either of the following 2 methods may be used to verify safety system integrity when communication cannot be established with the applicable control modules:

- ✓ An Inspection Facility may have the vehicle scanned at another licensed Inspection Facility. The Inspection Technician doing the scan must also complete a "[Record of Onboard Diagnostic Scan \(ROS\) - VSSROS2012](#)" available on the eFacility main page or at [www.transportation.alberta.ca/vipinfo](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/vipinfo).
- ✓ Advise the customer to take the vehicle to another Inspection Facility that has the ability to do the whole inspection.

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## WATER DAMAGED VEHICLES FROM HURRICANE SANDY

Alberta Transportation is cautioning Albertans to do research before importing or buying a new or used vehicle from the United States. With reports of more than 230,000 vehicles damaged by flooding during Hurricane Sandy, it's possible that unscrupulous sellers and brokers may try to unload them on unsuspecting consumers.

The 'Request for Inspection' form must be reviewed prior to conducting an Alberta Out of Province or Salvage Vehicle Inspection. The form will note the "Status" of the vehicle. Vehicles with a status of "salvage" or "oop-salvage" must undergo an Alberta Salvage Vehicle Inspection. Vehicles with a status of "nonrepairable" cannot be licensed in the province and should not undergo an inspection.

Alberta		REQUEST FOR VEHICLE INSPECTION	
Vehicle Inspection Display			
VIN:	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	VAC:	xxxx-xxxx
YEAR:	2000	COLOUR:	Black
MAKE:	Ford	FUEL:	
MODEL:	f150	PART CODE:	vehicle
STYLE:	4 door	CO.UNIT #:	
		STATUS DATE:	2011-08/10
		STATUS:	oop-active
		SALVAGE DATE:	
		OOP JUR:	BC

Inspection Facilities and Technicians should be aware that if there is evidence the vehicle was submerged in water at or above the bottom of the dash, the vehicle will be considered non-repairable and it cannot be licensed in the province. If evidence of flood damage is found, contact the Vehicle Safety Investigations team at [vsi@gov.ab.ca](mailto:vsi@gov.ab.ca) or 780-427-8901, toll free within Alberta by first dialling 310-0000.

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- ✓ **Pre-signs**: It is an offence to sign an inspection certificate prior to the inspection being completed. Technicians found to be pre-signing inspection certificates will face disciplinary action that could include an administrative penalty (fine), licence suspension or criminal charges.
- ✓ **Failed Inspections**: Inspection facilities that are forwarding Record of Inspections with significant structural or mechanical issues should be faxing them to 780-988-7629.
- ✓ **Cheques**: Any cheques being sent to the Vehicle Inspection Program for licences or administrative penalties need to be made out to the Government of Alberta.
- ✓ **Newsletters**: Inspection Facilities should be discussing the content of the Vehicle Inspection Program Newsletters with technicians inspecting at their facility. Inspection technicians should be discussing the content of the newsletters with the Licensee of the Inspection Facility.