



Vehicle Safety Inspection Program Bulletin

ASED-005

Date: January 01, 2019 - (Original Directive issued on March 17,2017)

Bulletin: All Inspection Station Personnel

From: Automotive Safety Enforcement Division

RE: **Trailer Inspection Procedure Change**

Amperage draw testing of electric brake application has been found to be ineffectual in determining the proper application of electric brake systems during inspection due to the variables in system voltages and resistances not allowing an accurate percentage of current draw to be measured. The Ammeter is no longer a required inspection tool for inspection stations or vehicle safety inspections.

Electric Brake Application Inspection - Inspection Stations are authorized to remove the ammeter from the required tools and equipment maintained at their respective facilities. Inspection mechanics may inspect electric brakes for proper application using a tow vehicle to apply the trailer brakes in both forward and reverse and observe that all the brakes do apply and release properly. Alternatively the brake application may be tested as follows:

- a. Lift the trailer until the tire(s) assembly may be rotated by hand;
- b. Apply the trailer brakes using a tow vehicle, or an external power source;
- c. Attempt to rotate the tire(s) assembly in both the forward and the reverse directions, and observe whether or not the electric brake applies and holds so long as rotational force is being applied to the assembly;
- d. Reject any tire(s) assembly that will rotate by hand while power is being applied to the electric brake system.



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Trailer Length and Weight Restrictions - The following procedures for trailer inspections as pertains to length and weight for inspection stations have been revised.

1. Class "A" and Class "M" Inspection Stations which were previously limited to a maximum length of 20 feet for trailer inspections may now inspect any trailer which is not equipped with air brakes. Furthermore, trailers may be inspected outside of the inspection area, provided that they are performed on the premises of the inspection station.
2. Class "T" Inspection Stations which were previously limited to inspection of only 10,000 GVWR and under trailers, may now inspect any trailer which is not equipped with air brakes.

NOTE: All Other Trailer Regulations Remain In Effect As Detailed In The Vehicle Inspection Handbook

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact ASED at:

410-768-7388 or MSP.ASED@maryland.gov