

## **Vehicle Safety**

### **By ADR Staff**

Even though Oklahoma repealed the vehicle inspection requirement in 2009, the laws mandating vehicle equipment requirements remain in effect. And they are in effect for good reason. Besides being a matter of law, vehicle safety is a matter of life-and-death. Something as simple as changing windshield wiper blades or replacing faulty light bulbs has the potential to prevent a serious vehicle accident.

Consequently, in Oklahoma a vehicle may not legally be driven or moved on any highway unless it is in safe mechanical condition and unless certain components are in good working order and meet adjustment standards. In addition, unless previously disclosed through written documentation, no vehicle to be operated on state highways shall be sold or offered for sale unless it is equipped as required by state law.

All vehicles should be inspected for compliance with functional standards prior to being offered for sale. Statistics published by the Car Care Council show that 18 percent of vehicles have inadequate brake fluid levels, 14 percent have inadequate power steering fluid levels, 14 percent have front windshield wiper failures, and 13 percent need lights replaced. To help dealers document the vehicle's condition, a Vehicle Inspection form is available from OIADA. The form lists each of the required components and offers a place to indicate its functional status.

The following vehicle safety and emission control components must meet the indicated standards, as required by Oklahoma law.

### **Lights**

Oklahoma has adopted the U.S. Dept. of Transportation's specifications and standards for headlamps, auxiliary driving lamps, tail lamps, signal lamps, and reflectors.

- All lamps shall be functional and shall maintain a steady beam.
- No lamp, other than a headlamp, shall project a glaring light.
- Blue lights are prohibited except on certain law enforcement and emergency equipment.
- Headlamps shall be white light.
- Stop lamps, including a center high-mounted lamp (if so equipped) shall be a red or amber light.
- Turn signal lamps shall be white or amber in the front and shall be red or amber in the rear.
- Rear license plates shall be illuminated by no more than two separate white lamps.
- Rear license plates shall not be surrounded or framed by any additional lights.

**Brakes**

- All brakes shall be maintained in good working order.
- Brakes should be adjusted as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.
- Brakes on a passenger vehicle should be capable of bringing the vehicle to a complete stop from 20 mph within 20 feet.
- Brakes on a truck with GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less shall be capable of bringing the vehicle to a complete stop from 20 mph within 25 feet.

**Horns**

- Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a horn in good working order.
- Horn should be audible under normal conditions from not less than 200 feet away.
- Other than specific emergency or official vehicles, no vehicle shall be equipped with a siren.

**Exhaust System**

- Every vehicle shall be equipped and maintained so as to prevent excessive or unusual noise.
- Every vehicle shall be equipped with a muffler in good working order.
- Muffler cut-outs, bypasses, and similar devices are prohibited.
- Exhaust systems shall not be modified in any manner which will amplify or increase the noise or sound emitted louder than that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle.
- The engine and power mechanism shall be so equipped and adjusted to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke, or both.

**Mirrors**

- Vehicles shall have a mirror mounted on the left side of the vehicle that affords the driver a view to the rear of the vehicle.
- Vehicles shall have a mirror mounted either inside near the center or outside on the right that affords the driver a view to the rear of the vehicle.

**Windshields and Windshield Wipers**

- Vehicles shall be equipped with a windshield.
- Vehicle glass shall be safety glass. Laminated safety glass marked "AS-1" or "AS-14" is required in windshields and is acceptable at any other location in a passenger vehicle. Laminated or tempered safety glass marked "AS-2" is acceptable for use at any location in a passenger vehicle except the windshield.

- Neither the windshield nor the window on either side of the driver shall be so severely cracked or shattered to the extent that air passes through it or that sharp edges can be felt.
- Within the area swept by the windshield wiper, no windshield shall have any star break or shot damage 3 inches or more in diameter, nor have two or more stress or hairline cracks of 12 inches or greater length combined.
- The windshield shall be equipped with an electric windshield wiper.
- Every windshield wiper blade and mechanism shall be maintained in good working order.
- Windshield wiper blade length shall not be reduced from the manufacturer's specification.

### **Tires**

A vehicle shall not be operated when one or more of the tires is in unsafe operating condition. An unsafe tire is any tire:

- With a tread depth less than two-thirty-seconds ( $2/32$ ) inch measured in any two adjacent tread grooves at three equally spaced intervals around the circumference of the tire. Such measurements shall not be made at the location of any tread wear indicator, tie bar, hump, or fillet.
- On which the ply or cord is exposed in the tread area.
- Which has been regrooved or recut below the original groove depth, except tires designed for regrooving.
- Marked "Farm Implement Only," "Not for Highway Use," or any other marking indicating the tire is not for normal highway use.
- On which any bulges, bumps, or knots show in the tread or sidewall area.

### **Wheels**

- Wheels shall not be cracked.
- Wheels shall be securely fastened to the hub with all lug nuts properly affixed.

### **Seat Belts**

- Beginning with the 1966 model year, a passenger vehicle may not be offered for sale or transfer unless such vehicle is equipped with safety belts or safety shoulder harnesses installed for use in the left front and right front seats.

### **Emission Control System**

- Emission control system equipment shall be maintained in good working order
- No part of the emission control system shall be disconnected except temporarily in order to make repairs.
- The system shall not be modified or altered in any manner.

- No vehicle shall be operated while any part of the emission control system is disconnected, modified, or altered.

### **Suspension**

- No vehicle shall be operated if any shock absorber, spring, or strut of the suspension system is absent, disconnected, or broken.

### **Speedometer**

- Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a properly operating speedometer capable of registering at least the maximum legal speed limit for that vehicle.

### **Steering**

- No vehicle shall be operated which exhibits jamming (such as interference of oversize tires or damaged equipment), roughness, or binding when turning the wheels from full right to full left.
- No vehicle shall be operated if the steering wheel has excessive play. If the steering wheel is 18 inches or less in diameter, more than 6 inches of play is excessive. If the steering wheel is over 18 inches in diameter, more than 8 inches of play is excessive.
- No vehicle shall be operated if any power steering pump is inoperative or is not properly operating.

### **Airbags**

- If a vehicle originally equipped with airbags is sold without airbags, that fact shall be disclosed in the buyer's order.

To order the Vehicle Inspection form, please contact the OIADA office at 405-232-2947 or 800-346-4232, or visit our website at [www.e-oiada.com](http://www.e-oiada.com).