

NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TITLE 13, CHAPTER 20,
SUBCHAPTER 7 VEHICLE INSPECTION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

13:20-7.1 Definitions
13:20-7.2 Inspection of motor vehicles; test frequency; exempt vehicles
13:20-7.3 Inspection facilities
13:20-7.4 Temporary authorization certificates; period of validity
13:20-7.5 Adjustments, corrections, or repairs
13:20-7.6 Immediate repairs
~~13:20-7.7 (Reserved)~~
~~13:20-7.8 (Reserved)~~
~~13:20-7.9 (Reserved)~~
~~13:20-7.10 (Reserved)~~
~~13:20-7.11 (Reserved)~~
~~13:20-7.12 (Reserved)~~
~~13:20-7.13 (Reserved)~~

§ 13:20-7.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Certificate of approval” means an inspection sticker issued by an official inspection facility, a licensed private inspection facility, a State specialty inspection facility or the Motor Vehicle Commission’s Mobile Inspection Unit certifying that a motor vehicle complies with the requirements of Title 39 and Title 26 of the Revised Statutes, N.J.A.C. 13:20-43, 32 or 33, whichever is applicable, and either N.J.A.C. 7:27-15 and 7:27B-5 regarding the inspection of gasoline-fueled and bi-fueled motor vehicles or N.J.A.C. 7:27-14 and 7:27B-4 regarding the inspection of diesel-fueled motor vehicles, whichever are applicable.

“Chief Administrator” means the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

“EPA” means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

“Gross vehicle weight rating” or “GVWR” means the value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a single or combination (articulated) vehicle.

“Inspection decal” means an inspection sticker issued by an official inspection facility in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.4, setting forth the year and month in which a motor vehicle less than four model years old shall be presented for inspection in this State.

“Jitney” means an autobus as defined in N.J.S.A. 48:16-23 with a carrying capacity of not more than 13 passengers, operated under municipal consent upon a route established wholly within the limits of a single municipality or with a carrying capacity of not more than 20 passengers operated under municipal consent upon a route established wholly within the limits of not more than four contiguous municipalities within any county of the fifth or sixth class, which route in either case does not, in whole or in part, parallel upon the same street the line of any street railway or traction railway or any other autobus route.

“Limousine” means any motor vehicle that is issued special registration plates bearing the word “limousine” pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-19.5, other than motor vehicles that are subject to inspection by the Motor Vehicle Commission’s Commercial Bus Inspection and Investigation Unit.

“Motor Vehicle Commission” or “Commission” means the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission established by section 4 of P.L. 2003, c. 13 (N.J.S.A. 39:2A-4).

“Official inspection facility” means a test-only inspection facility that the State Treasurer has contracted for pursuant to section 4 of P.L. 1995, c. 112.

“On-board diagnostics” or “OBD” means an automotive diagnostic system complying with California Air Resources Board OBD regulations or EPA OBD regulations effective for model year 1996 and newer gasoline-fueled and bi-fueled motor vehicles and for model year 1997 and newer diesel-fueled motor vehicles.

“Private inspection facility” means any person, partnership, or corporation licensed by the Motor Vehicle Commission pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-44 to perform the motor vehicle inspections required by N.J.S.A. 39:8-1.

“State specialty inspection facility” means a test-only inspection facility that is operated by the Motor Vehicle Commission to inspect certain motor vehicles as specified in N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.3(d).

“Taxicab” means an autocab as defined in N.J.S.A. 48:16-1 engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire, which is held out, announced or advertised to operate or run or which is operated or run over any of the streets or public highways of this State and particularly accepts and discharges such persons as may offer themselves for transportation from points or places to points or places within or without the State.

§ 13:20-7.2 Inspection of motor vehicles; test frequency; exempt vehicles

(a) Motor vehicles subject to inspection pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:8-1 shall be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) above, the following motor vehicles subject to inspection pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:8-1 shall be inspected on an annual basis:

1. Gasoline-fueled and bi-fueled motor vehicles that are registered as commercial motor vehicles pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-20;
2. Diesel-fueled motor vehicles having a GVWR of less than 10,000 pounds that are registered as commercial motor vehicles pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-20;
3. Buses that have been issued passenger, governmental, no fee or commercial vehicle license plates by the Motor Vehicle Commission;
4. Taxicabs;
5. Limousines; and
6. Jitneys.

(c) The following vehicles, some of which may be subject to inspection under other provisions of law or regulation, shall be exempt from the inspection requirements of this subchapter:

1. Historic motor vehicles registered pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-27.4;
2. Collector motor vehicles;
3. Motorized bicycles;
4. Farm tractors and traction equipment;
5. Farm machinery and implements;
6. Fire trucks having a GVWR of more than 8,500 pounds;
7. In-transit construction equipment registered pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-30;
8. Diesel-fueled motor vehicles having a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or more that are required to be inspected by the owner or lessee of the vehicle in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:20-26;
9. Omnibuses that are subject to inspection by the Commission's Commercial Bus Inspection and Investigation Unit;
10. School buses which are subject to inspection by the Commission's School Bus Inspection Unit in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:3B-18 et seq.; and
11. Tactical military vehicles operated on Federal installations within this State.

§ 13:20-7.3 Inspection facilities

(a) Motor vehicles subject to inspection pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:8-1 shall have the inspection performed at an official inspection facility, a licensed private inspection facility, or a State specialty inspection facility, as provided in this section.

(b) Official inspection facilities shall perform inspections on automobiles, trucks, buses that have been issued passenger, governmental, no fee or commercial vehicle license plates by the Motor Vehicle Commission, taxicabs, limousines, jitneys and motorcycles. Official inspection facilities shall not perform inspections on school buses, retired school buses that are subject to inspection in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:20-30, buses that are subject to inspection by the Commission's Commercial Bus Inspection and Investigation Unit or motor vehicles with elevated chassis height that are subject to inspection in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:20-37.

(c) Licensed private inspection facilities shall perform inspections on automobiles, trucks, buses that have been issued passenger, governmental, no fee or commercial vehicle license plates by the Motor Vehicle Commission, taxicabs, limousines, jitneys and motorcycles. Licensed private inspection facilities shall not perform inspections on school buses, buses that are subject to inspection by the Commission's Commercial Bus Inspection and Investigation Unit or motor vehicles with elevated chassis height that are subject to inspection in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:20-37.

(d) State specialty inspection facilities shall perform inspections on motor vehicles with elevated chassis height that are subject to inspection in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:20-37, motor vehicles that are operated by disabled persons and that have been modified at the direction of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, so that such vehicles are fully controlled by specially designed mechanical devices for the disabled, reconstructed vehicles as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:20-44.2, salvage motor vehicles that are subject to inspection in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:21-22, buses that have been issued passenger, governmental, no fee or commercial vehicle license plates by the Motor Vehicle Commission, any motor vehicle that the Chief Administrator may require to be presented for inspection for auditing purposes, and any motor vehicle that has failed inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility that is presented for reinspection by the owner or lessee thereof because he or she disputes the inspection failure.

(e) Notwithstanding (d) above, following successful completion of inspection at a State specialty inspection facility, motor vehicles that are operated by disabled persons and that have been modified at the direction of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, so that such vehicles are fully controlled by specially designed mechanical devices for the disabled, reconstructed vehicles as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:20-44.2, and salvage motor vehicles that are subject to inspection in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:21-22 shall thereafter be inspected at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility.

§ 13:20-7.4 Temporary authorization certificates; period of validity

(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) below, whenever a motor vehicle, which has been previously registered other than on a temporary basis in a foreign jurisdiction and is less than four model years old and will not become four model years old within the two-month period following the calendar month of initial registration in this State, is initially registered in this State, the registrant thereof shall be issued a temporary authorization certificate. Such motor vehicle shall be presented at an official inspection facility for the issuance of an inspection decal within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. A motor vehicle receiving an inspection decal pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to inspection during the calendar year in which the motor vehicle becomes four model years old no later than the last day of the calendar month within that year that is designated on the inspection decal affixed to such motor vehicle pursuant to this subsection. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

(b) A motor vehicle for which a temporary authorization certificate has been issued pursuant to (a) above that is registered as a commercial motor vehicle pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-20 or that is a bus that has been issued passenger, governmental, no fee or commercial vehicle license plates by the Motor Vehicle Commission or that is a taxicab, limousine or jitney shall be presented for inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on an annual basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

(c) Whenever a motor vehicle, which has been previously registered other than on a temporary basis in a foreign jurisdiction and is four model years old or older or will become four model years old within the two-month period following the calendar month of initial registration in this State, is initially registered in this State, the registrant thereof shall be issued a temporary authorization certificate. Such motor vehicle shall be presented for inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

(d) Whenever a new motor vehicle, which has been purchased in a foreign jurisdiction and temporarily registered therein, is initially registered by the purchaser in this State, the registrant thereof shall be issued a temporary authorization certificate. Such motor vehicle shall be presented at an official inspection facility for the issuance of an inspection decal within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. A new motor vehicle receiving a decal pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to inspection not later than four years from the last day of the calendar month in which the decal was issued for such motor vehicle, and the decal affixed to such motor vehicle pursuant to this subsection shall so indicate; provided, however, that a new motor vehicle receiving a decal pursuant to this subsection that is registered as a commercial motor vehicle pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-20 or that is a bus that has been issued passenger, governmental, no fee or commercial vehicle license plates by the Motor Vehicle Commission or that is a taxicab, limousine or jitney shall be subject to inspection not later than one year from the last day of the calendar month in which the decal was issued for such motor vehicle and the decal affixed to such motor vehicle pursuant to this subsection shall so indicate.

The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

(e) Whenever a used motor vehicle, which has been purchased in this or any other State and which has affixed thereto an unexpired New Jersey inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal, is initially registered by the purchaser in this State and the unexpired inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal indicates that the motor vehicle is due for inspection within the two-month period following the calendar month in which such motor vehicle is initially registered by the purchaser in this State, the registrant thereof shall either:

1. Present such motor vehicle for inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation; or

2. Present such motor vehicle for inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility no later than the expiration date of the New Jersey inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal affixed to the motor vehicle. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

(f) Whenever a used motor vehicle, which has been purchased in this or any other State and which has affixed thereto an unexpired New Jersey inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal, is initially registered by the purchaser in this State and the unexpired inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal indicates that the motor vehicle is not due for inspection within the two-month period following the calendar month in which such motor vehicle is initially registered by the purchaser in this State, the registrant thereof shall either:

1. Present such motor vehicle for inspection at a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. A motor vehicle inspected pursuant to this paragraph that is found to be in proper operating condition shall retain the existing inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal issued therefor and shall next be inspected at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility no later than the expiration date of the New Jersey inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal affixed to the motor vehicle. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation. A motor vehicle inspected pursuant to this paragraph that is found to be defective shall be subject to reinspection by a licensed private inspection facility no later than the last day of the calendar month following the calendar month in which the motor vehicle failed inspection, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.6(a). Following successful completion of reinspection at a licensed private inspection facility, the motor vehicle shall be issued an inspection certificate of approval having an expiration date that coincides with that of the unexpired New Jersey inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal that was affixed to the motor vehicle at the time of its purchase and the motor vehicle shall next be inspected at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility no later than that expiration date. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation; or

2. Present such motor vehicle for inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility no later than the expiration date of the New Jersey inspection certificate of

approval or inspection decal affixed to the motor vehicle. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

(g) Except as otherwise provided in (g)3 below, whenever a used motor vehicle, which has been purchased in this or any other state and which does not have affixed thereto a New Jersey inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal, is initially registered by the purchaser in this State and the motor vehicle is less than four model years old and will not become four model years old within the two-month period following the calendar month in which such motor vehicle is initially registered by the purchaser in this State, the registrant thereof shall:

1. Present such motor vehicle for inspection at a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. A motor vehicle inspected pursuant to this paragraph that is found to be defective shall be subject to reinspection by a licensed private inspection facility no later than the last day of the calendar month following the calendar month in which the motor vehicle failed inspection, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.6(a). Upon approval following inspection or reinspection by a licensed private inspection facility, the motor vehicle shall next be inspected during the calendar year in which the motor vehicle becomes four model years old, no later than the last day of the calendar month within that year that is designated on the inspection certificate of approval affixed to such motor vehicle pursuant to this paragraph. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation; or

2. Present such motor vehicle at an official inspection facility for the issuance of an inspection decal within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. A motor vehicle receiving a decal pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to inspection during the calendar year in which the motor vehicle becomes four model years old, no later than the last day of the calendar month within that year that is designated on the decal affixed to such motor vehicle pursuant to this paragraph. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

3. A motor vehicle for which a temporary authorization certificate has been issued pursuant to this subsection that is registered as a commercial motor vehicle pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-20 or that is a bus that has been issued passenger, governmental, no fee or commercial vehicle license plates by the Motor Vehicle Commission or that is a taxicab, limousine or jitney shall be presented for inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on an annual basis, except as otherwise provided by law or rule.

(h) Whenever a used motor vehicle, which has been purchased in this or any other State and which does not have affixed thereto a New Jersey inspection certificate of approval or inspection decal, is initially registered by the purchaser in this State and the motor vehicle is four model years old or older or will become four model years old within the two-month period following the calendar month in which such motor vehicle is initially registered by the purchaser in this State, the registrant thereof shall be issued a temporary authorization certificate. Such motor vehicle shall be presented for inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as

otherwise provided by law or regulation.

(i) Whenever a used motor vehicle, which has been purchased in this State and is less than four model years old and will not become four model years old within the two-month period following the calendar month of initial registration by the purchaser in this State and which has affixed thereto a collector motor vehicle windshield sticker issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-43.2(e), is initially registered by the purchaser in this State, the windshield sticker shall be deemed void and the registrant thereof shall be issued a temporary authorization certificate and shall either:

1. Present such motor vehicle for inspection at a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate if the registrant does not wish to retain the collector motor vehicle designation. A motor vehicle inspected pursuant to this paragraph that is found to be defective shall be subject to reinspection by a licensed private inspection facility no later than the last day of the calendar month following the calendar month in which the motor vehicle failed inspection, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.6(a). Upon approval following inspection or reinspection by a licensed private inspection facility, the motor vehicle shall next be inspected during the calendar year in which the motor vehicle becomes four model years old no later than the last day of the calendar month within that year that is designated on the certificate of approval affixed to such motor vehicle pursuant to this paragraph. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation;

2. Present such motor vehicle at an official inspection facility for the issuance of an inspection decal within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate if the registrant does not wish to retain the collector motor vehicle designation. A motor vehicle receiving a decal pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to inspection during the calendar year in which the motor vehicle becomes four model years old no later than the last day of the calendar month within that year that is designated on the decal affixed to such motor vehicle pursuant to this paragraph. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation; or

3. Present such motor vehicle to the Chief Administrator or his or her designee within 14 days of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate and make application for designation as a collector motor vehicle in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:20-43.2(c) through (h).

(j) Whenever a used motor vehicle, which has been purchased in this State and is four model years old or older or will become four model years old within the two-month period following the calendar month of initial registration by the purchaser in this State and which has affixed thereto a collector motor vehicle windshield sticker issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-43.2(e), is initially registered by the purchaser in this State, the windshield sticker shall be deemed void and the registrant thereof shall be issued a temporary authorization certificate and shall either:

1. Present such motor vehicle for inspection at an official inspection facility or a licensed private inspection facility within 14 days of the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate. The motor vehicle shall thereafter be inspected on a biennial basis, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

2. Present such motor vehicle to the Chief Administrator or his or her designee within 14 days of

the date of issuance of the temporary authorization certificate and make application for designation as a collector motor vehicle in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:20-43.2(c) through (h), inclusive.

§ 13:20-7.5 Adjustments, corrections, or repairs

If a motor vehicle inspection as required by N.J.S.A. 39:8-1 discloses the necessity of adjustments, corrections, or repairs, it shall be incumbent upon the owner or lessee of such motor vehicle to have such adjustments, corrections, or repairs made and to present the motor vehicle for reinspection no later than the last day of the calendar month following the calendar month in which the motor vehicle was due for inspection, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.6(a). However, if an on-road inspection required by N.J.S.A. 39:8-2 discloses the necessity of adjustments, corrections, or repairs, it shall be incumbent upon the owner or lessee of such motor vehicle to have such adjustments, corrections, or repairs made and to present the motor vehicle for reinspection within 30 days of the date of the on-road inspection rejection, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.6(a).

§ 13:20-7.6 Immediate repairs

(a) When the nature of the defect(s) found at a motor vehicle inspection is such as to constitute a hazard to the public safety so as to require immediate repairs to such motor vehicle, such repairs shall be made and the motor vehicle presented for reinspection within 48 hours.

(b) A defect which constitutes a hazard to the public safety so as to require immediate repairs to a motor vehicle shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. A motor vehicle with a rupture in the brake system;
2. A motor vehicle with a service brake pedal that does not stop the motor vehicle when fully depressed;
3. A motor vehicle on which all headlights are inoperative;
4. A motor vehicle on which all taillights are inoperative;
5. A motor vehicle on which all stoplights are inoperative;
6. A motor vehicle which has excessive looseness in its steering linkage wherein the steering wheel must make a complete revolution before there is a perceptible movement of the wheels;
7. A motor vehicle with a broken ball joint(s), tie rod(s), or pitman arm;
8. A motor vehicle with a broken suspension component wherein such condition interferes with the operation of the motor vehicle;

9. A motor vehicle with an exhaust leak and holes in the passenger compartment which permit exhaust gases to enter the passenger compartment;
10. A motor vehicle with any part of the exhaust system passing through the passenger compartment;
11. A motor vehicle with a fuel leak in any part of the fuel system;
12. A motor vehicle with a component of the fuel system which is in contact with a moving part of the motor vehicle;
13. A motor vehicle with a tire(s) wherein the ply or cord is exposed and delaminating;
14. A motor vehicle with a windshield which is so severely broken or shattered as to substantially impair the driver's vision; or
15. A motor vehicle with window glazing which is damaged so that sharp edges of glass are exposed.

~~13:20-7.7 (Reserved)~~

13:20-7.8 (Reserved)

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13:20-7.10 (Reserved)

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