

# REGULATORY CRIMES INVESTIGATIVE CATEGORIES

Texas Department of Public Safety  
Vehicle Inspection Taskforces  
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## Overview

Program violations that fall under the purview of the Regulatory Crimes Division (RSD) are evaluated for investigative potential and prioritized for referral and/or investigation based on the following criteria:

- Potential or actual impact on public health and safety;
- Potential or actual impact on operations of critical infrastructure sites, governmental agencies, or private businesses; and/or
- Potential or actual impact to the public or regulated businesses and individuals from economic loss.

RSD program investigations are subsequently classified as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, or Compliance, based on the severity of the suspected criminal activity and the immediacy for initiating an investigation. The criteria established for each investigative classification are listed below.

## Tier 1 Investigations

- A vehicle inspection station, inspector, or other person fraudulently inspecting at least 5,000 vehicles or counterfeiting an equivalent number of documents or certificates associated with vehicle inspections or emissions testing;
- An investigation revealing the use of a significant electronic or software tool designed to circumvent OBD-II readings, which, if proliferated across the state, could have significant impact to the MVI program;
- A regulated business or individual contracted by or at a critical infrastructure site, governmental agency, or private business, and that is engaged in criminal activity with a high risk of impacting public health and safety or national security;
- A regulated business or individual using their license or registration to engage in criminal activity with a combination of 10 or more persons or businesses, in which the misuse, absence, or willful circumvention of regulations causes a significant threat to public safety or economic loss.

## Tier 2 Investigations

- A vehicle inspection station, inspector, or other person fraudulently inspecting 2,500-4,999 vehicles or counterfeiting an equivalent number of documents or certificates associated with vehicle inspections or emissions testing;
- An investigation revealing that a significant fraud occurred as the result of an unscrupulous inspection station falsely charging victims to “repair” mechanical issues in order for the vehicle to pass, causing the victim a pecuniary loss of over \$1,000;

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- A regulated business or individual contracted by or at a critical infrastructure site, governmental agency, or private business, and that is engaged in criminal activity with a medium risk of impacting public health and safety or national security;
- A regulated business or individual using their license or registration to engage in criminal activity with a combination of 5-9 persons or businesses, in which the misuse, absence, or willful circumvention of regulations causes a significant threat to public safety or economic loss.

### **Tier 3 Investigations**

- A vehicle inspection station, inspector, or person fraudulently inspecting 500-2,499 vehicles or counterfeiting an equivalent number of documents or certificates associated with vehicle inspections or emissions testing;
- A regulated business or individual contracted by or at a critical infrastructure site, governmental agency, or private business, and that is engaged in criminal activity with a risk of impacting public health and safety or national security;
- A regulated business or individual using their license or registration to engage in criminal activity with a combination of less than 5 persons or businesses, in which the misuse, absence, or willful circumvention of regulations causes a significant threat to public safety or economic loss.

### **Compliance investigations**

- Any investigation involving regulated businesses or individuals that do not meet the threshold of Tiers 1-3 but that require investigation to ensure the integrity of the regulatory programs and adherence with applicable statutes and rules.