

Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC)

Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2019

1. Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Vehicle Inspection Advisory Committee (VIAC) was called to order at 1:32 p.m. on September 18, 2019 at DPS, Building I, 2nd Floor Executive Conference Room.

2. Roll Call

Present

Anthony Moffa	Co-Chairman	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Abel Porras	Co-Chairman	Inspection Station Owner
David Lewis		Emission Testing Equipment Manufacturer
Tommy Hebson		Vehicle Equipment Repair
Ken Jones		Retired Station Owner
Dave Campbell		Station Owner
Michelle Campbell		Station Owner
Jason Brown		
Brandi Bird		Texas State Inspection Association
Edgar Gilmore	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
David Serrins	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Walker Williamson	Program Coordinator	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Chad Cryer	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sarah Thomas	Agency Liaison	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Jo Jo Heselmeyer	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Pablo Luna	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Sarah Gaytan	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	Program Inspector	Texas Department of Public Safety
Krystal Sanders	Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety

1. Minutes from July 10, 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Krystal Sanders and unanimously approved as distributed.

2. Remarks from DPS and TCEO

DPS:

Pablo Luna stated that ASM/TSI inspections were being removed as of January 1, 2020. Due to the age of the vehicles (1995 model or later), will no longer need an emissions inspection, only a safety inspection. Texas DPS plans to update public websites to motorists, send out broadcast messages to the counties/ stations affected, and continue to work with TCEQ and the DMV to ensure that partner agencies are aware of the changes to the VI program. Notices will be revised, indicating specific vehicles that will need to be tested for emissions due to their manufacturing. Please be aware of

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upcoming process changes.

The online renewal functionality was disabled as of September 1, 2019. All 12,500 stations were required to renew prior to this date. All stations that failed to renew, were noted as expired and will need to reapply. Please contact your DPS representative for additional assistance.

As of January 1, 2020, DPS will no longer issue Window Tint Exemption certificates. Motorist must obtain signed statement from a licensed physician and must be presented to the inspector at the time of the inspection. Motorist must also keep the statement in the vehicle and present in case of traffic stop. Existing certificates issued by DPS prior to January 1, 2020 are still valid and acceptable to present at inspection station or during a traffic stop.

TCEQ:

A representative from TCEQ commented that they are working alongside DPS to implement Senate Bill 711, which will put all information on the VIR (which will be ongoing). TCEQ plans on a smooth transition on January 1, 2020. Anthony Moffa has been appointed as Co-Chair for the committee, and will be in place for 3 years.

1. Old Business

a. Tire Tread Citation:

Pablo Luna welcomed Ken Jones and guests from Pine Tree inspections. In the July 10 meeting, a concern was brought to Pablo's attention of a tire tread citation on a vehicle that was passed. After speaking with Tim Edwards and Victoria Smelly, Pablo was able to verify that a citation wasn't issued, only a re-education regarding the tire tread and tread wear indicators. Upon review of the VI operating manual, Pablo acknowledged that the verbiage was confusing and the re-education was rescinded. The manual will be re-worded for easier understanding.

b. Reimbursement:

Abel Porras posed the question to JoJo Heselmeyer in reference to reimbursement for participants out of town. Jo Jo informed Abel that there would be no movement until next session. She explained that everything must go through legislation. She advised that all parties interested could reach out to their legislators in reference to funding.

2. New Business

a. Seats Filled:

A phone caller asked Pablo Luna if all committee seats were filled at this time. Pablo confirmed that all seats were filled.

b. Window Tint:

Dave Campbell thanked Pablo Luna for his quick response on the tread wear re-education. Dave brought up a concern in reference window tint. Dave has a customer with a tint exemption, but the customer allows her children to utilize the vehicles on her insurance policy. He asked Pablo if verifying the cars ownership would be appropriate. Pablo noted that he has heard of this issue before, and we wouldn't be able to go by ownership information, so unfortunately this is a loop hole. Pablo noted that we can only advise the customer that the tint exemption should only be used by the person with the medical exception and advise them that they may be cited.

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Ken Jones made the suggestion to make notes on the warning portion of the inspection that the customer was advised that the tint should be used for persons with a medical exception. Pine Tree Inspection has made copies of medical documents for verification purposes. Pablo advised against making copies of medical documents due to HIPPA laws. JoJo Heselmeyer added that a note will suffice and we should allow law enforcement to regulate.

c. Deleted Diesels

Dave Campbell also brought up issues with deleted diesels. Diesel owners are removing/disabling the emissions control devices and going in for inspections. Pablo Luna commented that if any original equipment is missing during the safety inspection, that inspectors may fail the diesel. A member from TCEQ questioned Dave Campbell on the functionality of the check engine/service engine lights. Dave states that computer programmers are disabling certain parts where the indicator doesn't show. Jo Jo Heselmeyer offered future training to bring awareness to station owners.

3. Public Comments

Jason Brown notified every one of the Texas State Vehicle Association Meeting at the Renaissance Hotel, October 7-8 as a point of interest for everyone.

Follow up question from Brandi Bird on safety recall bill details. Jo Jo Heselmeyer had no additional specifics at that time, but informed Brandi that DPS was adamantly working with TCEQ. Jo Jo hopes for implementation within 1-2 years. Jo Jo encouraged feedback from industry professionals.

4. Future Agenda Items:

Co-Chair Anthony Moffa, discussed the Vision Zero plan that was introduced by TxDOT There is a vehicle safety component that he feels should be discussed in the next meeting. Jo Jo noted that DPS will be in touch with TxDOT contacts in reference to Vision Zero.

Ken Jones had an inquiry in reference to recalls. After reading the initial bill, he requested clarification if all stations (safety as well as emissions) would be affected or just emission stations. Jo Jo Heselmeyer and Pablo Luna informed him that all stations would receive the recall. Pablo added that the Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) would be revised for Vehicle Inspection Connection (VIC) machines and the VIR for analyzers. Ken requested modifications to the computer software. Jo Jo requested that Ken send her an email with his request and we would follow up with him on his request.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was originally scheduled for December 11, 2019 and later changed to December 16, 2019.

6. Adjourn

Abel Porras adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.