

Title: North Carolina State Safety Inspection Procedures

Lesson Purpose: To present a standardized method of testing and evaluating the performance and knowledge of inspection mechanics conducting North Carolina State Safety Inspections.

Student Performance Objectives: At the end of this block of instruction, the student will be able to achieve the following objectives in accordance with the information received during the instructional period.

1. List the nine inspection areas inspector mechanics must check during a safety inspection.
2. Identify eight emission control devices installed by vehicle manufacturers.
3. Determine what emissions control devices are required on a vehicle by using the Emission Control System Applications Manual.
4. Calibrate and utilize headlight aimer.
5. Calibrate and utilize window tint meter.
6. Utilizing the safety inspection regulation manual the student shall be able to successfully complete a North Carolina State Safety Inspection.
7. Achieve a score of 80% or higher on a Division approved written exam.

Hours: Eight (8)

Instructional Method: Lecture / demonstration / practical exercise

Classroom Environment: Academic classroom/automotive service bay

Materials required:  
Pen/pencil  
Note paper  
Lesson outline  
Safety Inspection/Emission Inspection Regulations  
Emission Control System Application Manual

Training Aids: PowerPoint Presentation

Approved light testing device  
Approve tint meter  
Emission Control Manual  
Safety Inspection Regulations Manual

References: Safety/Emission Inspection Rules and Regulation Manual,  
North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, License and  
Theft Bureau.

19A, North Carolina Administrative Code.

Study Assignment: None

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## Title: Safety Inspection Procedures of North Carolina

### I. Introduction

#### A. Opening Statement

This block of instruction is designed to provide the necessary skills for the perspective Technician/Mechanic to obtain certification to properly conduct a North Carolina Safety Inspection in accordance with the rules and regulations outlined in 19A of the North Carolina Administrative Code.

#### B. Student Performance Objectives

#### C. Reasons

There are approximately 53,063 certified Technician/ Mechanics performing state safety inspections at over 6,558 Official Inspection Stations in North Carolina. These inspections when properly done help ensure the safety of the motoring public by removing unsafe motor vehicles from the roads until any deficiencies are corrected.. If these inspections were not required, drivers could be operating vehicles upon the roads and highways of our state with potential hazards that could jeopardize the safety of fellow motorists. To prevent this, the State of North Carolina enacted legislation in 1964 requiring that motor vehicles registered in this state be inspected for safety on an annual basis.

### II. Body

#### A. Technician Qualifications

To obtain certification to perform North Carolina Safety Inspections the perspective technician **must**:

- (1) Have successfully completed an eight hour course approved by the Division that teaches students about the safety equipment a motor vehicle is required to have to pass a safety inspection and how to conduct a safety inspection using equipment to electronically transmit the vehicle information and inspection results.
- (2) Have a driver's license.

- (3) Be of good character and have a reputation for honesty.

**Note: Certifications once issued are valid for (4) years unless suspended or revoked by the Division.**

**Note: An Out of State drivers license is acceptable if the Technician/Mechanic resides in another state and is within a commutable distance from his/her place of employment.**

B. Inspection Procedure

**19A NCAC 03D .0525 PRE-INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS**

**Prior to performing an inspection, the inspection mechanic/technician shall:**

- (1) Have all occupants leave the vehicle.
- (2) Check the vehicle for after factory window tint. G.S. 20-127(b)
- (3) If the vehicle does not have a license plate, “**none**” shall be indicated. If inspected for a dealership, the **dealer license number** shall be indicated. G.S. 20-183.7B

**Note: If an inspection is conducted on a vehicle, that is part of a dealer’s inventory you must indicate the dealer license number, not the dealer license plate number.**

**The following vehicle components are inspected during the North Carolina Vehicle Safety Inspection to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements.**

**19A NCAC 03D .0532 BRAKES**

No vehicle brakes shall be approved for an inspection unless the items indicated in this Rule are inspected and found to meet the minimum requirements established in G.S. 20-124 and this Rule.

- (1) Footbrakes shall not be approved if:
  - (a) When applying brakes to moving vehicle, braking force is not distributed evenly to all wheels originally equipped with brakes by

the manufacturer. **(The inspection mechanic must drive vehicle to make this test. The inspector may check the brakes while driving vehicle forward into the inspection area.)**

- (b) There is audible indication (**metal on metal**) that the brake lining is worn to the extent that it is no longer serviceable. **(The wheel must be pulled and the brake lining examined when this occurs.)**
- (c) Pedal reserve is less than 1/3 of the total possible travel when the brakes are fully applied, or does not meet the manufacturer's specification for power brakes or air brakes.
- (d) The reservoir of the master cylinder is not full. (Only brake fluid meeting SAE specifications for heavy duty hydraulic brake fluid shall be used when adding or changing brake fluid.)
- (e) There is a visible leakage or audible seepage in hydraulic, vacuum or air lines and cylinders, or visible cracked, chafed, worn, or weakened hoses.
- (f) The vehicle has any part of the brake system removed or disconnected.
- (g) The brake pedal moves slowly toward the toeboard (indicating fluid leakage) while pedal pressure is maintained for one minute.

**Note: (g) Some vehicles manufactured with ABS brakes will do this as a normal function.**

**Note: The illumination of the “ABS” light does not constitute a failure unless the ABS unit is leaking or damaged.**

- (2) Inspection mechanics are not expected to remove wheels in order to inspect the brakes. (Except as provided in Sub-item (1)(b) of this Rule.) **Inspection mechanic must raise vehicle to get beneath to check underside.**
- (3) Handbrakes (auxiliary, parking or holding) shall not be approved if:
  - (a) There is no lever reserve when the brake is fully applied.

- (b) Cables are visibly frayed or frozen, or there are missing or defective cotter pins or broken or missing retracting springs or worn rods or couplings.
- (c) The operating mechanism, when fully applied, fails to hold the brakes in the applied position without manual effort.
- (d) When emergency or handbrakes are applied they fail to hold vehicle.
- (e) Fails to release after set.

**Note: Emergency brake should be tested by setting the brake with the vehicle running and in gear. Do not depress the accelerator while performing this test.**

**Note: Some Chevrolet trucks and sport utility vehicles will have no lever reserve from the factory.**

#### **19A NCAC 03D .0533 LIGHTS**

(a) Headlights shall conform to the requirements of G.S. 20-129(b) & (c).

##### **Headlights shall not be approved if:**

- (1) There are not at least **two** headlamps (at least four on dual headlamp systems which require four units) on all self-propelled vehicles **except that motorcycles and motor driven cycles need only one.**
- (2) The lens produces other than a white or yellow light.
- (3) Any lens is cracked, broken, discolored, missing, or rotated away from the proper position, or any reflector is not clean and bright.
- (4) The high beam-low beam dimmer switch does not operate properly or the high beam indicator light does not burn.
- (5) Lights can be moved easily by hand, due to a broken fender or loose support, or if a good ground is not made by the mounting.
- (6) Foreign materials (such as shields, half of lens painted) are placed on the headlamp lens that interferes with light beam of lamp.

- (7) Lights are improperly aimed. (**A light testing machine or light testing chart shall be used to determine this.**)
- (8) Lights project a dazzling or glaring light when on low beam.

**Note: Fog lamps or auxiliary lamps are not required and are not part of the safety inspection.**

**Note: Xenon lights installed by the manufacturer and Xenon light replacement kits are allowed.**

**Note: Headlamps must be aimed during each inspection by use of an approved headlight aimer, undamaged on-board aimer or wall chart.**

- (b) Rear Lights shall conform to the requirements of G.S. 20-129(d).

**Taillights shall not be approved if:**

- (1) All original equipped rear lamps or the equivalent are not in working order.
- (2) The lens is cracked, discolored, or of a color other than red.
- (3) They do not operate properly and project white light on the license plate.
- (4) They are not securely mounted.

- (c) Stoplights shall conform to the requirements of G.S. 20-129(g).

**A stoplight shall not be approved if:**

- (1) The lens is cracked, discolored or of a color other than red or amber. Minor cracks on lenses shall not lead to disapproval unless water is likely to short out the bulb.
- (2) It does not come on when pressure is applied to foot brake.
- (3) It is not securely mounted so as to project a light to the rear.

- (d) Vehicles shall have the lights as required by G.S. 20-129.1.

- (e) Parking lights shall conform to the requirements of G.S. 20-134. A vehicle shall not be approved if parking lights are not working.
- (f) Back-Up Lamps. Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two back-up lamps either separately or in combination with other lamps but any such back-up lamp shall not be lighted when the motor vehicle is in a forward motion nor shall the back-up lamp emit any color other than white. **A back-up lamp is not a mandatory requirement**

**Note: If vehicle is equipped with LED lights, one hundred per cent of the diodes must work.**

**Note: Neon lights will not be approved.**

**Note: The Inspector Mechanic performing the Safety Inspection must observe the illumination of the bulb.**

**Note: Pickup trucks with camper shells are not required to install an auxiliary brake light on the rear of the camper shell.**

**Note: If the camper shell is installed in such a way that the third brake light on the pickup is not visible, it is not require to be operational.**

#### **19A NCAC 03D .0534 HORN**

**The horn shall not be approved if:**

- (1) It will not emit a sound audible for a distance of at least 200 feet, or it emits an unusually loud or harsh sound. Original equipment in working order will meet these requirements.
- (2) It has frayed, broken, or missing wiring; if wiring harnesses are broken or missing; if horn button is not mounted securely and in a position which is easily accessible to the driver; or if the horn is not securely mounted to the motor vehicle.
- (3) Operation of the horn interferes with the operation of any other mechanism.

- (a) Vehicles equipped with sirens shall not be approved unless they are within the class listed in G.S. 20-125(b) as being authorized to carry a siren.

**19A NCAC 03D .0535 STEERING MECHANISM**

**(a) The inspection mechanic must raise vehicle to get beneath to check steering mechanism.**

**(b) The steering mechanism shall not be approved if:**

- (1) With front wheels in straight ahead position there is more than three inches of free play in steering wheels up to 18 inches in diameter or more than four inches of free play in steering wheels over 18 inches in diameter. If vehicle is equipped with power steering, the engine must be operating.
- (2) Either front or rear springs are noticeably sagging or broken.
- (3) The front wheels or front end assembly is bent or twisted or bolts, nuts or rivets are loose or missing.
- (4) Power steering system shows visible leaks or the power steering belt is loose or worn.

**19A NCAC 03D .0536 WINDSHIELD WIPER**

**Windshield wipers shall not be approved if:**

- (1) The vehicle is not equipped with a windshield wiper or wipers, provided the vehicle has a windshield.
- (2) The wiper or wipers do not operate freely.
- (3) The wiper controls are not so constructed and located that the driver may operate them.
- (4) The wiper or wipers are not adequate to clean rain, snow and other matter from the windshield.
- (5) Parts of blades or arms are missing or show evidence of damage.

**None: Wipers are not required equipment on vehicles without windshields.**

**19A NCAC 03D .0537      DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS**

**(a) G.S. 20-125.1 requires all vehicles **except motorcycles** to be equipped with turn signals.**

**(b) Vehicles required to have signals shall be inspected and disapproved if:**

- (1) Signals are not present and of a type approved by the Commissioner as specified in G.S. 20-125.1. Original directional signals on vehicles manufactured after July 1, 1953, are considered to be of a type approved by the Commissioner. Such signals shall be those which will allow the operator of the vehicle to clearly show another operator approaching from a distance of 200 feet from the front or rear his intention to turn the vehicle.
- (2) All lights do not operate properly, or if any lenses are broken, missing, or do not fit properly.
- (3) Signal lens color is other than red or amber on the rear and other than white or amber on the front
- (4) Lamps are not securely mounted or wiring and connections are not in good condition.
- (5) Signals are not visible from front or back due to faulty or damaged mounting or due to manner in which mounted.
- (6) Switch is not so located as to be convenient for the driver to operate and so that its operation does not interfere with operation of other mechanisms.

**19A NCAC 03D .0538      TIRES**

**(a) A vehicle shall be disapproved if:**

- (1) Any tire has cuts or snags that expose the cords.

- (2) Any tire has a visible bump, bulge, or knot apparently related to tread or sidewall separation or partial failure of the tire structure including bead area.
- (b) Tire depth shall be measured by a tread depth gauge which shall be of a type calibrated in thirty-seconds of an inch. Readings shall be taken in two adjacent tread grooves of the tire around the circumference of the tire. Readings for a tire with a tread design that does not have two adjacent grooves near the center shall be taken at the center of the tire around the circumference of the tire. **Each tire must be completely lifted from the ground for an inspection to be performed.**

**Note: Temporary tires (Doughnut Spares) shall not be approved.**

**Note: Dry rotted tires shall not be approved.**

### **19A NCAC 03D .0539 TIRES – DEFINITIONS**

As used in this and the preceding Rule, these terms have the following meaning:

- (1) Rim is a metal support for the tire or tire and tube assembly on the wheel. Tire beads are seated on the rim.
- (2) Bead is that part of the tire which is shaped to fit the rim. The bead is made of high tensile steel wires wrapped and reinforced by the plies.
- (3) Sidewall is that portion of the tire between tread and bead.
- (4) Cord is made from textile, steel wire strands forming the plies or other structure of the tires.
- (5) Ply is layers of rubber coated parallel cords forming the tire body
- (6) Rib is the tread section running circumferentially around the tire.
- (7) Groove is the space between two tread ribs. A tire shall not be approved if there is less than  $2/32$  inch tread at two or more locations around the circumference of the tire in two adjacent major tread grooves or if the tread wear indicators are in contact with the roadway at two or more locations around the circumference of the tire in two adjacent major tread grooves.

### **19A NCAC 03D .0540 REAR VIEW MIRRORS**

**Rear view mirrors shall not be approved if:**

- (1) Loosely mounted.
- (2) Forward vision of the device is obstructed by mirror assembly.
- (3) They do not provide a clear view of the highway to the rear.
- (4) Cracked, broken, have sharp edges or can not be cleaned such that rear vision is not obscured.
- (5) Very difficult to adjust or they will not maintain a set adjustment.
- (6) Bus, truck or truck-tractor with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more is not equipped with a rear vision mirror on each side.
- (7) Vehicles manufactured, assembled, or first sold after January 1, 1966 are not equipped with outside rear view mirrors on the driver's side.

#### **19A NCAC 03D .0541 EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROLS**

(a) An exhaust emission shall not be approved if the vehicle is a 1968 year model or newer and any of the visible emission control devices placed thereon by the manufacturer are missing, disconnected, made inoperative or have been altered without approval of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

(b) If the unleaded gas restrictor on a vehicle manufactured after model year 1967 has been altered or removed a new or reconditioned catalytic converter and unleaded gas restrictor must be replaced before the vehicle passes inspection.

**(c) An exhaust system shall not be approved if:**

- (1) The vehicle has no muffler.
- (2) The muffler, exhaust or tail pipes have leaking joints.
- (3) The exhaust or tail pipes have holes, leaking seams or leaking patches on muffler.
- (4) The tail pipe end is pinched.
- (5) The exhaust system is equipped with muffler cut-out or muffler by-pass.
- (6) Any part of the system passes through the passenger compartment.

## **19A NCAC 03D .0542 EMISSIONS CONTROL DEVICE**

Pursuant to G.S. 20-183.8A(2), a civil penalty shall be assessed against individuals who instruct or allow a person to remove, disconnect, tamper with, or render inoperable any emissions control device equipped by the manufacturer of any motor vehicle as described in G.S. 20-183.3.

### **These devices include:**

- (1) Catalytic converter
- (2) Unleaded gas restrictor
- (3) Air pump system
- (4) EGR valve
- (5) PCV valve
- (6) Thermostatic air cleaner
- (7) Evaporative emission system
- (8) Oxygen sensor

## **19A NCAC 03D .0544 SAFETY INSPECTION OF MOTORCYCLES**

(a) Motorcycle brakes shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) When applying brakes to moving vehicle, there is insufficient force to stop the vehicle.
- (2) Brakes are worn in such a manner that there is an uneven braking force.
- (3) There is an audible or visual indication that the brake lining is worn to the extent it is no longer serviceable.
- (4) There is less than one-third reserve in either footbrake or handbrake total possible travel when the brakes are fully applied.

- (5) Reservoirs of braking cylinders are not full.
- (6) There is a visible leakage of fluid from any brake line or brake component.
- (7) Handbrake cables are frayed, broken, or frozen or linkage is defective.

(b) Motorcycle headlamps shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) Headlamp does not operate properly.
- (2) There are more than two headlamps connected on a single switch.
- (3) Headlamp is cracked or has holes which allow entry of water.
- (4) There is standing water in the headlamp.
- (5) Headlamp is out of proper aim.

(c) Motorcycle rear lamps shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) They do not operate.
- (2) Light is a color other than red.
- (3) Light is cracked or broken and allows entry of water.
- (4) There is standing water in the lens.
- (5) Lamp is not securely mounted.
- (6) Wiring is broken or frayed.

(d) A motorcycle stop lamp shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) Lamp does not operate when brakes are applied.
- (2) Light is a color other than red or amber.
- (3) Light is cracked or broken or allows entry of water.
- (4) There is standing water in the lens.
- (5) Lamp is not securely mounted.
- (6) Wiring is broken or frayed.

(e) A motorcycle license plate light shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) Light does not operate.
- (2) Light does not illuminate the license plate.
- (3) Light is a color other than white.

(f) A motorcycle horn shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) The horn does not operate.
- (2) The sound emitted is not audible at 200 feet.
- (3) The horn is not securely mounted.
- (4) The button is mounted so that it can not be easily operated by the driver.

(g) Motorcycle tires shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) There is less than two thirty-seconds of an inch of tread at two or more locations around the circumference of the tire in two adjacent major tread grooves, or if the tread wear indicators are in contact with the roadway at two or more locations around the circumference of the tire.
- (2) Cords are exposed at any location on the tire.
- (3) Sidewall is cut, bulging, damaged or is severely cracked due to dry rotting.

(h) Motorcycle rear view mirrors shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) The mirrors are missing, broken, or cracked.
- (2) The mirrors are not securely mounted.
- (3) The mirrors will not hold a setting while vehicle is in operation.

(i) A motorcycle exhaust system shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) The motorcycle has no muffler.
- (2) The muffler, exhaust or tailpipe has holes, leaking joints, seams, or patches.
- (3) The tailpipe end is pinched.

- (4) The exhaust system is equipped with a muffler cut out or bypass.
- (5) The muffler baffles have been removed or damaged to create a straight pipe.

(j) A motorcycle steering mechanism shall fail safety inspection if:

- (1) Front shocks are sagging or broken.
- (2) Front end assembly is bent or there are damaged or twisted bolts.
- (3) Front end nuts, bolts, or rivets are loose or missing.

**Note: Technician/Mechanic conducting the safety inspection of a motorcycle must drive the vehicle and must possess a valid driver license with a motorcycle endorsement.**

**Note: Headlamps on motorcycles must be aimed with either an approve headlight aimer or a wall chart.**

## **ADDITIONAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to other equipment required in this chapter, the following vehicles shall be equipped as follows:

1. On every bus or truck, whatever its size, there shall be the following:

- (a) On the rear, two (2) reflectors, one (1) at each side, and one (1) stop light.

2. On every bus or truck 80 inches or more in overall width, in addition to the requirements in paragraph 1:

- (a) On the front, two (2) clearance lamps, one (1) at each side.
- (b) On the rear, two (2) clearance lamps, one (1) at each side.
- (c) On each side, two (2) side marker lamps, one (1) at or near the front and one (1) at or near the rear.
- (d) On each side, two (2) reflectors, one (1) at or near the front and one

(1) at or near the rear.

3. On every truck tractor:

(a) On the front, two (2) clearance lamps, one (1) at each side.

(b) On the rear, one (1) stop light.

4. On every trailer or semi trailer having a gross weight in excess of 4,000 pounds:

(a) On the front, two (2) clearance lamps, one (1) at each side.

(b) On each side, two (2) marker lamps, one (1) at or near the front and one (1) at or near the rear.

(c) On each side, two (2) reflectors, one (1) at or near the front and one (1) at or near the rear.

(d) On the rear, two (2) clearance lamps, one (1) at each side; also two (2) reflectors, one (1) at each side, and one (1) stop light.

5. On every pole trailer in excess of 4,000 pounds gross weight:

(a) On each side, one (1) side marker lamp and one (1) clearance lamp which may be in combination, to show to the front, side, and rear.

(b) On the rear of the pole trailer or load, two (2) reflectors, one (1) at each side.

6. On every trailer, semi trailer or pole trailer weighing 4,000 pounds gross or less:

(a) On the rear, two (2) reflectors, one (1) on each side. If any trailer or semi trailer is so loaded or is of such dimensions as to obscure the stop light on the towing vehicle, then such vehicle shall also be equipped with one (1) stop light.

(b) Front clearance lamps and those marker lamps and reflectors mounted on the front or on the side near the front of a vehicle shall display or reflect an amber color.

(c) Rear clearance lamps and those marker lamps and reflectors

mounted on the rear or on the sides near the rear of a vehicle shall display or reflect a red color.

7. Brake lights (and/or brake reflectors) on the rear of a motor vehicle shall be red. The light illuminating the license plate shall be white. All other lights shall be white, amber, yellow, clear or red.

### **WAIVERS FROM SAFETY TEST REQUIREMENTS**

A waiver may be obtained when a vehicle fails a safety inspection because of missing emissions control devices by contacting a local DMV Inspector/Auditor of the Division.

## 19A NCAC 03D .0551 WINDOW TINTING

1. All stations performing window tinting checks **shall** have a photometer that has been properly tested and approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Stations that do not have an approved meter shall not inspect vehicles with applications of after-factory window tinting. Stations are not required to purchase a light meter in order to perform safety inspections on vehicles without after-factory window tinting.

(a) The mechanic/technician shall determine if the vehicle has after-factory window tinting prior to beginning the inspection. The mechanic/technician may use an automotive film check card or knowledge of window tinting techniques to determine if a vehicle has after-factory tint applied to any window of the vehicle.

**(b) If a station determines a vehicle has after-factory window tinting, but does not have an approved light meter, the mechanic/technician must inform the customer he is unable to perform the inspection. The station may not charge for any portion of the inspection.**

2. All windows with applications of after-factory window tinting shall be checked with the approved photometer.

3. Prior to performing a test on a vehicle, the mechanic/technician shall test the photometer for accuracy by checking the calibration against a reference sample of glass provided by the manufacturer. If the photometer indicates the device exceeds the net light transmission by + or - three (3) percentage points, the unit shall be considered out of calibration and may not be used until properly calibrated.

(a) The reference sample must be clean and free of dirt prior to performing the calibration check.

(b) If a reference sample has been broken or is missing, the test shall not be performed and the mechanic/technician shall inform the customer he is unable to perform the inspection.

(c) The windows to be tested shall be clean and free of dirt or moisture.

4. The test shall be performed according to the photometer manufacturer's recommendations.

5. Window tint shall fail safety inspection **if:**

(a) Any window on the vehicle with after-factory tint has a light transmittance of less than thirty-two percent (32%).

(b) The tint on any window is red, yellow or amber.

(c) The tint on the windshield extends more than five (5) inches below the top of the windshield or is below the AS1 line of the windshield, whichever is longer.

(d) All material used to tint a window(s) shall be non reflective and shall not be red, yellow or amber. After market tinting above the AS1 line must comply with G.S. 20-127(a)

6. Vehicles with after-factory window tint shall not be tested if they are a vehicle as classified in G.S. 20-127(a).

7. The mechanic/technician shall collect the fee as specified in G. S. 20-183.7(a) for performing the inspection.

8. **Tinting Exceptions.** – The window tinting restrictions in subsection (b) of this section apply without exception to the windshield of a vehicle. The window tinting restrictions in subdivisions (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section do not apply to any of the following vehicle windows:

- (1) A window of an excursion passenger vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)a.
- (2) A window of a for-hire passenger vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)b.
- (3) A window of a common carrier of passengers, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)c.
- (4) A window of a motor home, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)d2.
- (5) A window of an ambulance, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)f.
- (6) The rear window of a property-hauling vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(31).
- (7) A window of a limousine.
- (8) A window of a law enforcement vehicle.

- (9) A window of a multipurpose vehicle that is behind the driver of the vehicle. A multipurpose vehicle is a passenger vehicle that is designed to carry 10 or fewer passengers and either is constructed on a truck chassis or has special features designed for occasional off-road operation. A minivan and a pickup truck are multipurpose vehicles.
- (10) A window of a vehicle that is registered in another state and meets the requirements of the state in which it is registered.
- (11) A window of a vehicle for which the Division has issued a medical exception permit under subsection (f) of this section.

**9. Medical Exception.** – A person who suffers from a medical condition that causes the person to be photosensitive to visible light may obtain a medical exception permit. To obtain a permit, an applicant shall apply in writing to the Drivers Medical Evaluation Program and have his or her doctor complete the required medical evaluation form provided by the Division. The permit shall be valid for five years from the date of issue, unless a shorter time is directed by the Drivers Medical Evaluation Program. The renewal shall require a medical recertification that the person continues to suffer from a medical condition requiring tinting.

A person may receive no more than two medical exception permits that are valid at any one time. A permit issued under this subsection shall specify the vehicle to which it applies, the windows that may be tinted, and the permitted levels of tinting. The permit shall be carried in the vehicle to which it applies when the vehicle is driven on a highway.

The Division shall give a person who receives a medical exception permit a sticker to place on the lower left-hand corner of the rear window of the vehicle to which it applies. The sticker shall be designed to give prospective purchasers of the vehicle notice that the windows of the vehicle do not meet the requirements of G.S. 20-127(b), and shall be placed between the window and the tinting when the tinting is installed. The Division shall adopt rules regarding the specifications of the medical exception sticker. Failure to display the sticker is an infraction punishable by a two hundred dollar (\$200.00) fine.

**Note: All after market window tinting on a vehicle registered out of state must comply with NC window tinting laws, if inspected at a licensed NC inspection station.**

**Note: The \$10.00 window tint fee charge during an inspection is mandatory.**

**Note: There is no regulation of charges outside of the statutory fee for the Official Inspection.**

C. Safety Analyzer Operating Procedure

**Note: Refer to Handout # 1 “Safety Analyzer Operating Procedure”.**

**Note: Students should receive “hands on” instruction in the operation of the approved Safety Inspection Analyzer.**

III. Conclusion

- A. During this block of instruction the student has received classroom instruction and a practical demonstration in the correct method of conducting a North Carolina Safety Inspection.
- B. Student Performance Objectives
- C. As we have discussed, the most significant link in the North Carolina State Safety Inspection Program is the certified Inspection Mechanic. Utilizing the rules and regulations manual and the skills taught during this course, the Inspection Mechanic will be able to identify serious deficiencies that warrant a failure of the State’s Vehicle Safety Inspection. By identifying these equipment problems during the inspection, vehicle owners must have these issues corrected in order to pass the required annual inspection. The conscientious Inspection Mechanic is the first line of defense to ensure that vehicles operated upon the roads and highways of the State of North Carolina meet at least the minimum safety requirements.