



Vehicle Safety Inspection Program Bulletin

ASED-008

Date: January 01, 2019 (Original Directive issued on September 22, 2017)

Bulletin: All Inspection Station Personnel

From: Automotive Safety Enforcement Division

RE: **Clarification of Lift Axle Regulations for Class “C” inspection**

Inspection Procedure Change - The requirement for a lift axle air pressure adjustment control, and external valve stem located outside the cab of the vehicle on the passenger side of the vehicle toward the rear of the cab will no longer be a part of the safety inspection of lift axles during a full vehicle safety inspection. Lift axles and retractable axles will continue to be inspected for condition and function as outlined in the Vehicle Inspection Handbook, but the physical location of the air pressure adjustment control, and external valve stem will no longer be inspected.

SERO Inspection Procedure - A Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO), issued for Defect #90 lift axle air/weight ratio, may only be certified by a Maryland licensed truck inspection station, which is an authorized dealer as specified under COMAR 11.15.27.08 C. and which is equipped with the required certified scale, and calibrated air pressure gauge.

If a SERO issued for Defect #90 lift axle air/weight ratio, is presented to a Class “C” inspection station the owner/agent for the vehicle will be directed to one of the following authorized locations for inspection and certification of the SERO:

1. A Maryland manufacturer
2. A Maryland second-stage manufacture
3. An authorized dealer
4. A Maryland licensed truck inspection station which is an authorized dealer as specified under COMAR 11.15.27.08 C and is equipped with certified scales and calibrated air pressure gauge.



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5. A State-operated weight facility

Background Information - Maryland Vehicle Law, under Transportation Article §13–919, establishes a dump service registration with specific GVWR limitations, and lift axle configuration. Code of Maryland Regulations §11.15.27.01 establishing the operating requirements for these registrations using a lift axle. The language used in the Vehicle Inspection Handbook does not clearly define the differences between a “**lift axle**” and a “**retractable axle**”. The following information shall be consulted for clarification of which regulation is the appropriate reference for vehicle inspection.

§11.14.04.02 C (10) Lift Axle Air Pressure System. This regulation is applicable to a vehicle with with four or more axles, and a maximum 70,000 pound gross vehicle weight (GVWR), which is equipped with a lift axle that is registered, or will be registered as a dump service registration vehicle. This regulation may be found in Chapter 4, on page 16. This regulation stipulates that an air pressure adjustment control may not be located in the cab of the vehicle, but must be located on the outside of the passenger side of the vehicle toward the rear of the cab, and that there must be an external valve stem, and shall be readily accessible and visible to enforcement personnel.

§11.14.04.02 C (8) Air Suspension. Retractable Axle (not applicable to school vehicles). Vehicles equipped with retractable axles other than the aforementioned dump service vehicles shall be inspected using this regulation. The regulation may be found in Chapter 4, on page 14. This regulation does not specify the location of the air pressure adjustment, or the inclusion of an external valve stem.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact ASED at:

410-768-7388 or MSP.ASED@maryland.gov