

Proposed New “Safety “ Standards

Earlier this year MTO published a draft version of proposed new standards for Safety Standards Certificate inspections for light duty vehicles, for public comment (the current standards were written ‘way back in 1974!). The SVAO wrote up a report and sent it in to the MTO.

Thanks to an advisor to the SVAO, we have been informed that they now have a final version of these standards and they expect these will be law by July, 2016.

Some things that have always affected rods and other specialty vehicles remain such as missing fenders and bumpers, but there are some new changes too, Here’s a few:

- No recapped tires
- No wheel spacers
- Aftermarket window tint limited to 30% on windshield
- No spools
- No non-automotive gas tanks (eg: beer kegs!)
- No mixture of radial and non-radial tires
- No missing driver-side sun visor
- OEM steering wheel diameter
- Side marker lights required on *“home-made vehicles registered for the first time after Jan. 01. 2017”*

The inspections will take longer since the technicians will have to inspect a lot more things and record measurements on an inspection record, things like brake drum and rotor measurements, brake pad and lining thicknesses, tire pressures, tire tread depths, fuel level, and more, and all of this will take time. Also, some new and expensive systems are now part of the inspection such as air bags and stability control systems. The SVAO expects the cost of the inspections to increase and likely the cost of used cars too, as a result of the longer inspection and more things to repair on newer vehicles.

Also, MTO wants to create a separate inspection standard for “modified vehicles”. We don’t know how they will define such vehicles but we’re concerned. Our advisor has suggested to MTO contacts that they allow a group of experienced car builders and others to participate as stakeholders in this process and they have agreed (when – and if – the time comes).

In the meantime, have a look at the new standards and pass it around. Think about just how this will affect the vehicles you drive – hot rods, antiques and daily drivers.