

Vehicle requirements for road tests

To ensure the safety of the driver being tested, the driver examiner and all Alberta road users, vehicles used in road tests must meet provincial and federal safety standards. Often the main reason a vehicle is refused for a road test is because it has one or many safety related issues.

Common reasons vehicles fail a pre-road test inspection

The four most common reasons a vehicle fails the pre-trip inspection are:

1. Brake lights not working. Beyond the two main brake lights on the rear of the vehicle that must be working, the centre high mounted brake light is a third brake light and is part of the brake light safety subsystem and must also be working. This is part of the [Alberta Vehicle Equipment Regulation](#). A peace officer can assess a \$78 ticket for a violation.
2. Unobstructed windshield. Transportation understands that maintaining an undamaged windshield is difficult in Alberta, however it is still important that the driver can clearly see through the windshield in all driving conditions. The standard used to assess windshields is identified in the [Alberta Automotive and Light Truck Vehicle Inspection Manual](#), Section 4, Glass and determines if is suitable to be used for a road test.
3. Tinted Windows. Addition of any coatings or films to either the driver or passenger front windows are not permitted. Pedestrians and other drivers need to be able to see the driver of a vehicle to make sure they can make eye contact, and tinted windows can make this difficult. Front windows must remain as they were when the vehicle was built. This requirement can be found in Section 70 of the [Alberta Vehicle Equipment Regulation](#). A Peace Officer can assess a \$78 ticket for a violation.
4. Valid registration and insurance. All vehicles must be properly registered and insured to operate in Alberta. The registration document contains information that includes the owner of the vehicle and the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). The VIN on the registration document must match the VIN on the vehicle. Valid proof of insurance must be provided in the form of a Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Card. This card is also referred to as a Financial Responsibility Card. All insurance companies in Canada are required to provide clients proof of insurance in this format. Details on insurance documents is available [here](#).

Why vehicles must meet safety standards

Vehicle owners are expected to keep the safety systems on their vehicles in good working order. As a driver or potential driver you are expected to keep your vehicle in good working condition.

Transport Canada provides vehicle safety requirements that vehicle manufacturers must meet for a vehicle to be sold in Canada. In Alberta the *Traffic Safety Act* and the *Alberta Vehicle Equipment Regulation* to define standards and associated penalties when the standard is not met.

A road test is a Government of Alberta regulated service and the vehicles used in the road tests must meet all current safety standards to be used for a road test.