Hawaii Automobile Safety Inspector Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Questions

1. True or False: Taxi cabs must be inspected every 12 months.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on mileage

D. Only during peak season

2. Which of the following is NOT a reason for a NEV to fail its seatbelt inspection?

A. Frayed webbing

B. Securely anchored seatbelts

C. Buckle does not function properly

D. Assembly is missing

3. How many side marker lamps must a trailer with a gross weight over 3,000 pounds have?

A. One on each side

B. Two on each side

C. Three on each side

D. Four on each side

4. How is the brake indicator lamp tested?

A. By driving the vehicle

B. By applying the parking brake and turning on the ignition

C. By checking the brake fluid level

D. By pressing the brake pedal only

5. How often should vehicles be subjected to safety inspections?

A. Only when sold

B. Every year

C. Based on mileage

D. Every five years

6. Are bumpers required for Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs)?

A. No, they are not required

B. Only if they are installed

C. Yes, always required

D. Only for cars over 20 mph

7. Under which condition will a vehicle's suspension fail during inspection?

A. The vehicle can be easily pushed down

B. Shock absorbers are properly mounted

C. Suspension components are excessively corroded

D. Vehicle cannot be pushed down

8. Do the tint requirements for additional windows on a later model NEV apply?

A. Yes, they must comply

B. No, they do not apply

C. Only if the windshield is tinted

D. Only if the windows are larger than standard

9. What signage is required to be visible to the driver of a NEV?

A. Vehicle must not be driven over 15 mph

B. Vehicle must not be driven on roads with a speed limit greater than 35 mph

C. Vehicle may not park in disabled spots

D. Vehicle must display fuel type used

10. What is a sign of a failing suspension system?

A. Shock absorbers that do not leak

B. Coil springs extended by spacers or blocks

C. Firm handling and response

D. Ability to bounce back when pushed down

Answers

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. D
8. A
9. B
10. B

Explanations

1. True or False: Taxi cabs must be inspected every 12 months.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on mileage

D. Only during peak season

Taxi cabs must indeed be inspected every 12 months to ensure they meet safety and operational standards. This regular inspection schedule is mandated to help maintain the safety of both passengers and drivers. Regular inspections are crucial because taxi vehicles are frequently used and can accumulate wear and tear more rapidly than personal vehicles. By enforcing a yearly inspection, regulatory bodies can identify potential issues such as brake problems, tire conditions, and various other safety concerns that could arise from heavy usage. The requirement for annual inspections underscores the importance of ensuring that all commercial vehicles, like taxis, are kept in optimal working condition to protect the public. Other options would not adequately provide the necessary oversight needed for vehicles that are continually in use for passenger transport.

2. Which of the following is NOT a reason for a NEV to fail its seatbelt inspection?

A. Frayed webbing

B. Securely anchored seatbelts

C. Buckle does not function properly

D. Assembly is missing

In the context of seatbelt inspections for Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs), securely anchored seatbelts are an essential requirement for passing inspection. A seatbelt that is securely anchored indicates that it is properly installed and can effectively hold passengers in place during a collision, which is a fundamental safety feature of any vehicle. On the other hand, reasons for failure typically involve issues that compromise the functionality or integrity of the seatbelt, such as frayed webbing, which can indicate wear and reduced strength; a buckle that does not function properly, meaning it may not secure passengers effectively; and an assembly that is missing, which directly relates to the seatbelt's inability to serve its purpose. Since securely anchored seatbelts fulfill a critical safety function and show compliance with safety standards, this aspect will not lead to a failure in inspection, making it the correct choice for the question.

3. How many side marker lamps must a trailer with a gross weight over 3,000 pounds have?

A. One on each side

B. Two on each side

C. Three on each side

D. Four on each side

A trailer with a gross weight over 3,000 pounds is required to have two side marker lamps on each side. This regulation is in place to ensure the visibility and safety of the trailer when on the road, particularly in low-light conditions. The presence of these lamps aids other drivers in identifying the width and presence of the trailer, enhancing safety during nighttime or poor visibility situations. The requirement for two lamps on each side allows for adequate illumination and helps ensure that the trailer is visible from various angles by other road users. This is an important aspect of vehicle standards to help prevent accidents and ensure that larger vehicles like trailers are noticeable on the roadway.

4. How is the brake indicator lamp tested?

A. By driving the vehicle

B. By applying the parking brake and turning on the ignition

C. By checking the brake fluid level

D. By pressing the brake pedal only

Testing the brake indicator lamp involves applying the parking brake and then turning on the ignition. This procedure is essential because it ensures that the electrical circuit associated with the brake warning light is functioning correctly. When the parking brake is engaged, the lamp should illuminate, indicating that the system is operational. If the light does not come on when you perform this test, it suggests a fault in the brake warning system, such as a burned-out bulb or an issue with the wiring or sensor that activates the lamp. Other approaches to testing the brake lamp, such as simply driving the vehicle, would not verify the condition of the brake warning indicator itself. Checking the brake fluid level, while important for overall brake system maintenance, does not directly test the functionality of the indicator lamp. Pressing the brake pedal alone does not assess whether the lamp turns on because that typically involves different components of the brake system, including the master cylinder and associated sensors, rather than the parking brake indicator.

5. How often should vehicles be subjected to safety inspections?

A. Only when sold

B. Every year

C. Based on mileage

D. Every five years

Vehicles in Hawaii are required to undergo safety inspections annually. This regulation ensures that all vehicles on the road are inspected regularly for safety compliance, which includes checking various components such as brakes, lights, tires, and emissions systems. The annual requirement helps in maintaining safe roadway conditions and minimizes the risk of accidents caused by mechanical failures. The alternative choices do not align with the safety standards upheld in Hawaii. While some states may allow inspections to occur only upon the sale of a vehicle or infrequently based on mileage, in Hawaii, proactive and regular inspections are emphasized to promote public safety. Additionally, requiring inspections every five years would not adequately address potential safety issues that can arise over time, which is why the annual inspection is crucial for vehicles' upkeep and road safety.

6. Are bumpers required for Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs)?

A. No, they are not required

B. Only if they are installed

C. Yes, always required

D. Only for cars over 20 mph

Bumpers for Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) are not mandated by law unless they are already part of the vehicle's design and manufacturer specifications. This means that while bumpers can be beneficial for safety and regulation compliance, and a vehicle may be equipped with them, it is not a legal requirement for all NEVs to have bumpers. The implication here is that if a NEV comes with bumpers from the manufacturer, then it would be expected that they are used and maintained, but there's no blanket requirement for all NEVs to have bumpers regardless of make or model. The other options suggest different interpretations of the requirements for bumpers. The assertion that bumpers are always required does not align with the regulations set forth for NEVs, which allows for some flexibility based on the vehicle's original design. Similarly, the notion that bumpers are only necessary for vehicles that can operate above 20 mph fails to consider the purpose and functional quality of NEVs, which are generally designed for lower-speed urban environments.

7. Under which condition will a vehicle's suspension fail during inspection?

A. The vehicle can be easily pushed down

B. Shock absorbers are properly mounted

C. Suspension components are excessively corroded

D. Vehicle cannot be pushed down

A vehicle's suspension is designed to absorb shock, providing a smooth ride while maintaining tire contact with the road. During an inspection, the condition of the suspension system is crucial for safety and vehicle performance. The scenario in which a vehicle's suspension would fail inspection involves corrosion of the suspension components. Excessively corroded components can compromise the structural integrity and functionality of the suspension system. If such corrosion is evident, it can lead to potential failures while driving, negatively affecting the vehicle's stability and handling. While it may appear that a vehicle can withstand being pushed down, the key point is the condition of its suspension elements. If they are not functioning as intended, it increases the risk of catastrophic failure. Therefore, excessive corrosion in suspension components is a clear indicator that the vehicle does not meet safety standards and would warrant a failure during inspection.

8. Do the tint requirements for additional windows on a later model NEV apply?

A. Yes, they must comply

B. No, they do not apply

C. Only if the windshield is tinted

D. Only if the windows are larger than standard

The tint requirements for additional windows on a later model Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) do indeed apply, which is why this answer is accurate. In the state of Hawaii, as well as generally in many jurisdictions, vehicle window tinting regulations are intended to ensure safety and visibility for both the driver and other road users. Therefore, any additional windows installed on a vehicle, regardless of whether it is a later model NEV, must comply with existing tint regulations. This compliance includes adhering to specific limits on the Visible Light Transmission (VLT) percentage to ensure that enough light passes through the windows, allowing for clear visibility. These rules help prevent accidents caused by impaired vision due to excessive tinting and ensure that law enforcement can see into vehicles as necessary. Thus, it is incumbent upon owners of later model NEVs to ensure that all windows—including any additional ones—meet the set standards under these tinting regulations.

9. What signage is required to be visible to the driver of a NEV?

A. Vehicle must not be driven over 15 mph

B. Vehicle must not be driven on roads with a speed limit greater than 35 mph

C. Vehicle may not park in disabled spots

D. Vehicle must display fuel type used

The correct answer emphasizes an important regulation regarding Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) and their operation on roadways. NEVs are designed for safe travel within certain speed limits, and one critical requirement is that they must not be driven on roads where the speed limit exceeds 35 mph. This restriction is put in place to enhance safety, as these vehicles typically have a maximum speed of around 25 mph. By ensuring that NEVs operate only on lower-speed roads, the risk of serious accidents and conflicts with faster-moving traffic is minimized. Additional context about the other choices can further clarify their relevance. While the first option mentions a speed restriction of 15 mph, this isn't a regulatory requirement for signage; rather, it's about the operational limitations of the vehicle itself. The option regarding parking in disabled spots is important for compliance with accessibility standards, but it does not pertain to necessary signage for NEVs. Lastly, while understanding fuel types may be relevant for other vehicles, NEVs are primarily electric and do not require such signage to inform drivers about fuel types, as this characteristic is generally implicit.

10. What is a sign of a failing suspension system?

A. Shock absorbers that do not leak

B. Coil springs extended by spacers or blocks

C. Firm handling and response

D. Ability to bounce back when pushed down

A sign of a failing suspension system can indeed be identified by the use of coil springs that have been extended by spacers or blocks. When a vehicle's suspension is functioning correctly, coil springs are designed to support the weight of the vehicle and provide stability while maintaining a proper ride height. The use of spacers or blocks to extend these springs can indicate that there may be underlying issues with the suspension system, such as worn-out springs or a modification aimed at compensating for other problems. This alteration can lead to improper weight distribution, reduced performance, and an overall decrease in ride quality, which are indicators of a failing suspension. In contrast, well-functioning shock absorbers would not show leaks, indicating they are in good condition. Similarly, firm handling and response coupled with the ability to bounce back when pushed down suggest that the suspension system is effectively absorbing impact and maintaining stability, which are characteristics of a healthy suspension system.