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nyc.gov/consumers

TOW TRUCK INSPECTION GUIDELINES

After you submit your renewal application, required documents, and renewal fee, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) will contact you to schedule an appointment to inspect your tow trucks.

Important:

- All trucks listed on your Roster must be present at the time of the inspection.
- **If your trucks pass inspection**, the DCA inspector will give you a new medallion and an operating letter. You must surrender the old medallion. DCA will mail your new license document and identification card.
- **If your trucks fail inspection**, please call (212) 436-0066 or (212) 436-0075 to schedule a reinspection.
- A tow truck driver must be present with his/her DCA Tow Truck Driver license and current motor vehicle driver's license.
- You must show your current New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commercial Truck Registration for each tow truck.
- You must show the Insurance Card for your tow trucks.

Truck Requirements

- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the insurance document must match the VIN on the registration.
- The truck must have valid tow truck plates from the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) must be 8,600 pounds or heavier.
- If the vehicle is registered over 10,000 pounds, there must be a valid NYC Department of Finance Motor Vehicle Tax stamp. If the vehicle is registered as over 18,000 pounds, there must be a valid Department of Motor Vehicles heavy duty sticker on it.



- All of the following information* must be clearly painted on both sides of the truck(s):
 1. Company name, address, and telephone number
 2. Plate Number
 3. DCA Plate

The letters must be at least 1 ½ inches high and ¼ inch wide.

The lettering must be easily visible when the truck is in motion and in a contrasting color to the background.

*DARP participants must include the DCA complaint number (311) and the legal rate for DARP tows on the decals, specifically identified as “Rates for accident tows.”

*DARP and ROTOW participants must have decals indicating the major credit cards that are accepted placed right above or below the rates or the company’s name on the truck.

Decals must be at least 3 and 3/16 inches wide by 2 inches high.

The decals cannot be a magnet.

- The medallion number on the tow truck must be at least 12 inches high and, if the vehicle is a flatbed, the medallions must be at least 6 inches high.
- The winch, crane, or wheel lift must be operational and the amber lights of the truck must be removable and operational.
- Trucks must have a current New York State Inspection Sticker affixed to the windshield.