Vehicle Inspection Information System in The Slovak Republic

All vehicle technical inspections and emission checks data, performed in Slovakia are stored in an extensive database accessible through the World Wide Web. It is part of the central vehicle inspection information system, a new developed modern Oracle software based client - server application. The system's database is always up-to-date because data are inserted as the inspection is performed. State authorities can therefore easily supervise inspectors' work in real-time and use the stored data to enforce vehicle inspection regulations.

The company TESTEK (member of CITA) started its development for technical inspections in co-operation with software company DATALOCK in January 2006, joined by S-EKA in respect of the system's extension for emission checks. Since 2007 the system is used by vehicle inspection stations and emission check workstations all over the country. Its evolution still continues, new functionalities are added, and further extensions are in the making.

Data Transfer from Brake and Emission Testers

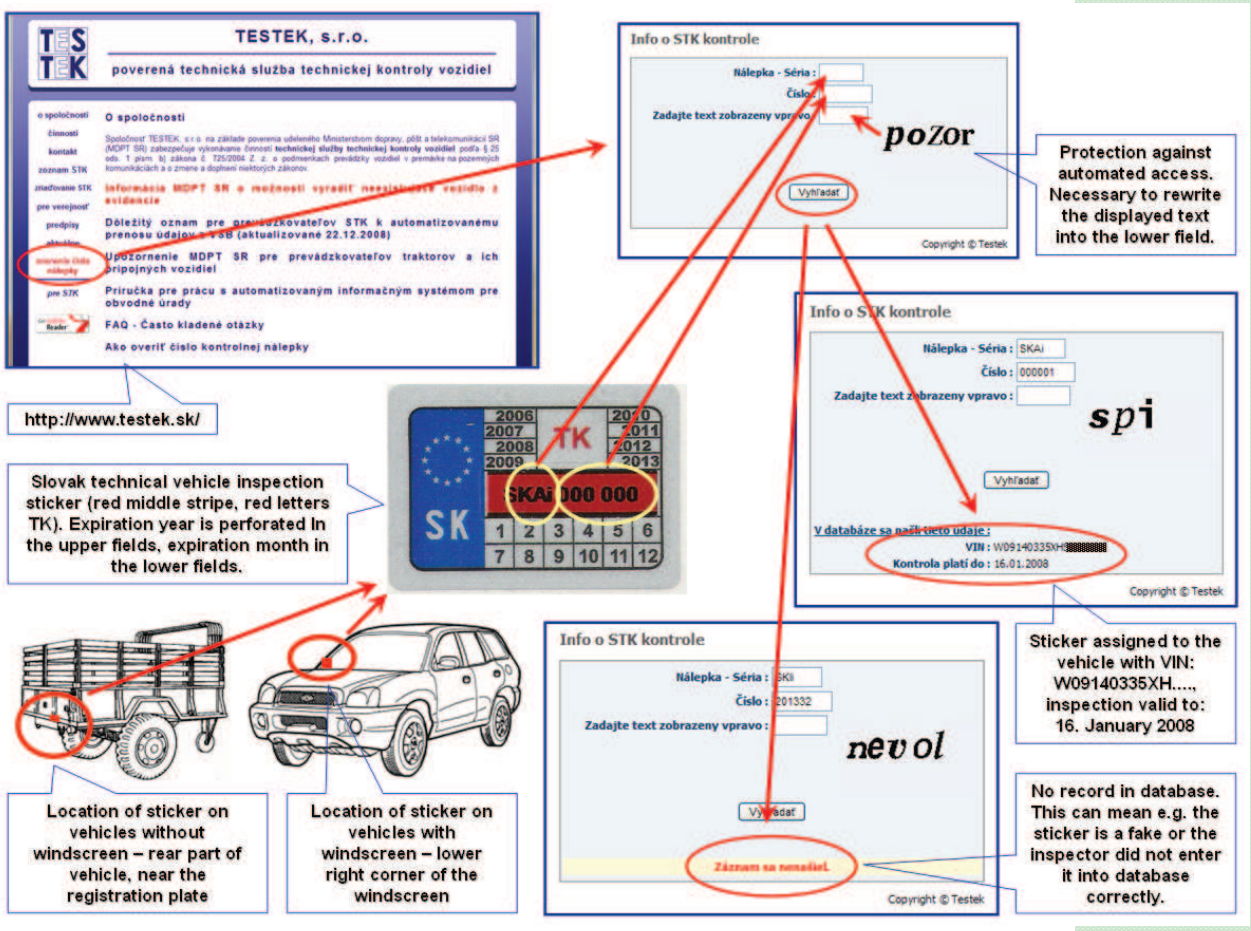
Since 1st January 2009, it is compulsory for vehicle inspection and emission check workstations in Slovakia to import the data from roller brake testers and emission testers directly into the information system without any human interference (national regulation Decree No. 578/2006 Coll.) As a result, brake and emission testers, apart from emission testers used solely for checks of petrol engines without catalyst, had to be upgraded by the end of 2008. Presently, data is immediately sent through the Internet. Output, generated by other inspection equipment items, still has to be manually inserted into the information system.

With this measure, the Slovak Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications aims to minimise the tampering of vehicle inspection results. This leads to greater transparency and trustworthiness of vehicle inspections.

Online Verification of the Inspection Sticker

The main purpose of the information system is of course its use for inspection data collection and state supervision. But some aspects directly benefit the public as well. In Slovakia each vehicle that passes the mandatory technical inspection receives a sticker. And one of the new features allows the public to verify the sticker for free online.

If a sticker is found on vehicle, and there are reasons to believe that it may not be a real one, the sticker's authenticity and validity can be checked free of charge on the TESTEK's webpage (www.testek.sk). Serial letters and numbers need to be entered into a simple form and the expiry date of the inspection and VIN of the inspected vehicle are immediately displayed. Very useful, not only for buyers of second hand cars but also for forensic vehicle experts, insurance companies or the police.



The introduction of this feature in September 2008 already helped to clear some cases involving fake stickers or stickers reused on vehicles that were not inspected.

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