

DEKRA | NEW MEXICO

A practical path to safer vehicles.

Vehicle safety inspections, explained.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Helping New Mexico drivers identify critical safety issues before they become a problem.



01 | WHO IS DEKRA?

Inspection experience, built around safety.

A global testing, inspection and certification partner with a clear purpose: a safe, secure and sustainable world.

Global scale

Headquartered in Germany, with inspection activity across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas.

Everyday safety

We inspect the parts drivers rely on: brakes, tires, lights, steering and visibility.

Future ready

We are developing ways to assess driver-assistance and automated-driving technology.

Recognized as the world's #1 vehicle inspections and testing company, DEKRA performs over 30 million vehicle inspections around the globe each year.



DEKRA: The Global Leader in Vehicle Inspections

What does a safety inspection check?

Think of it as a regular health check for the systems that help a car stop, steer, see and be seen.



The goal is simple: find safety-critical issues early, so they can be repaired for vehicles to operate on the road.

03 | TODAY'S VEHICLES

Your car may already help make driving decisions.

Many newer vehicles use driver-assistance features. They can reduce workload — but they must work correctly when needed.

Lane assist

Helps keep the vehicle centered

Automatic braking

May react to a potential collision

Adaptive cruise control

Adjusts speed to traffic

Parking assistance

Helps guide low-speed maneuvers

Driver monitoring

May prompt an inattentive driver

Sensors

Ensure all sensors work properly

04 | THE VEHICLES OF TOMORROW ARE ALREADY HERE

Autonomous Vehicles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOCqD8iRTYs>

Technology can help — but it does not remove risk.

Driver-assistance systems depend on sensors, software and the vehicle's mechanical condition.



Takeaways

- A dashboard feature may feel invisible — until it is needed.
- Damage, misalignment or sensor issues may affect how a feature performs.
- Inspection needs to keep pace as vehicles become more complex.

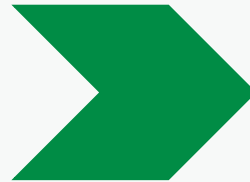
06 | THE INSPECTION GAP

Today: basic safety checks. Tomorrow: Enhanced driver-assistance validation.

NOW

Mechanical + visibility

Tires • brakes • lights • steering • glass • seat belts



EVOLVING

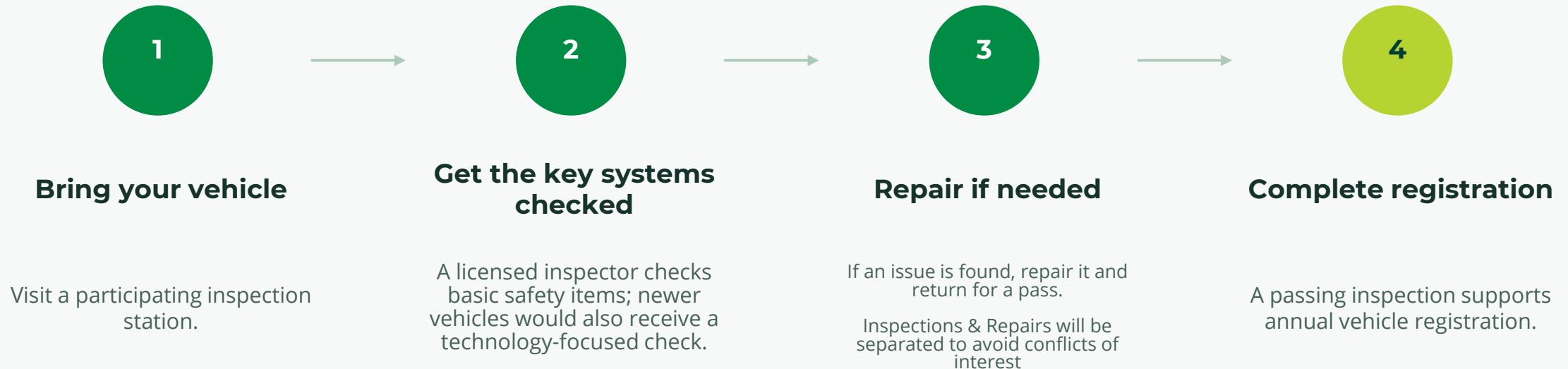
Vehicle safety + system confidence

Basic inspection, plus a future approach to checking whether automated and driver-assistance features are functioning as intended.

DEKRA is developing proprietary technology to help make this possible.

A clear, annual process for New Mexico drivers.

The proposed approach ties a completed inspection to annual state vehicle registration.



Projected price range: \$25–\$35. Vehicles that do not pass would not be charged until they do pass.

Safety should not be out of reach.

A proposed indigent fund would help qualifying drivers address repairs needed to pass inspection.

\$5

from each inspection could go to the fund

With approximately 1.86 million registered vehicles in New Mexico, inspection-company contributions could total roughly:

\$9M

per year (estimate)

The proposal also anticipates state support through a portion of additional gross-receipts-tax revenue that would result from the program.

University of Texas Study

A study from the University of Texas came to a clear conclusion:
Vehicle Safety Inspections save lives and enhance safety on the road.

3×

higher fatality ratio for vehicles in crashes with defects, compared with vehicles without defects

2×

more likely to result in a fatality when a crash involves a vehicle defect

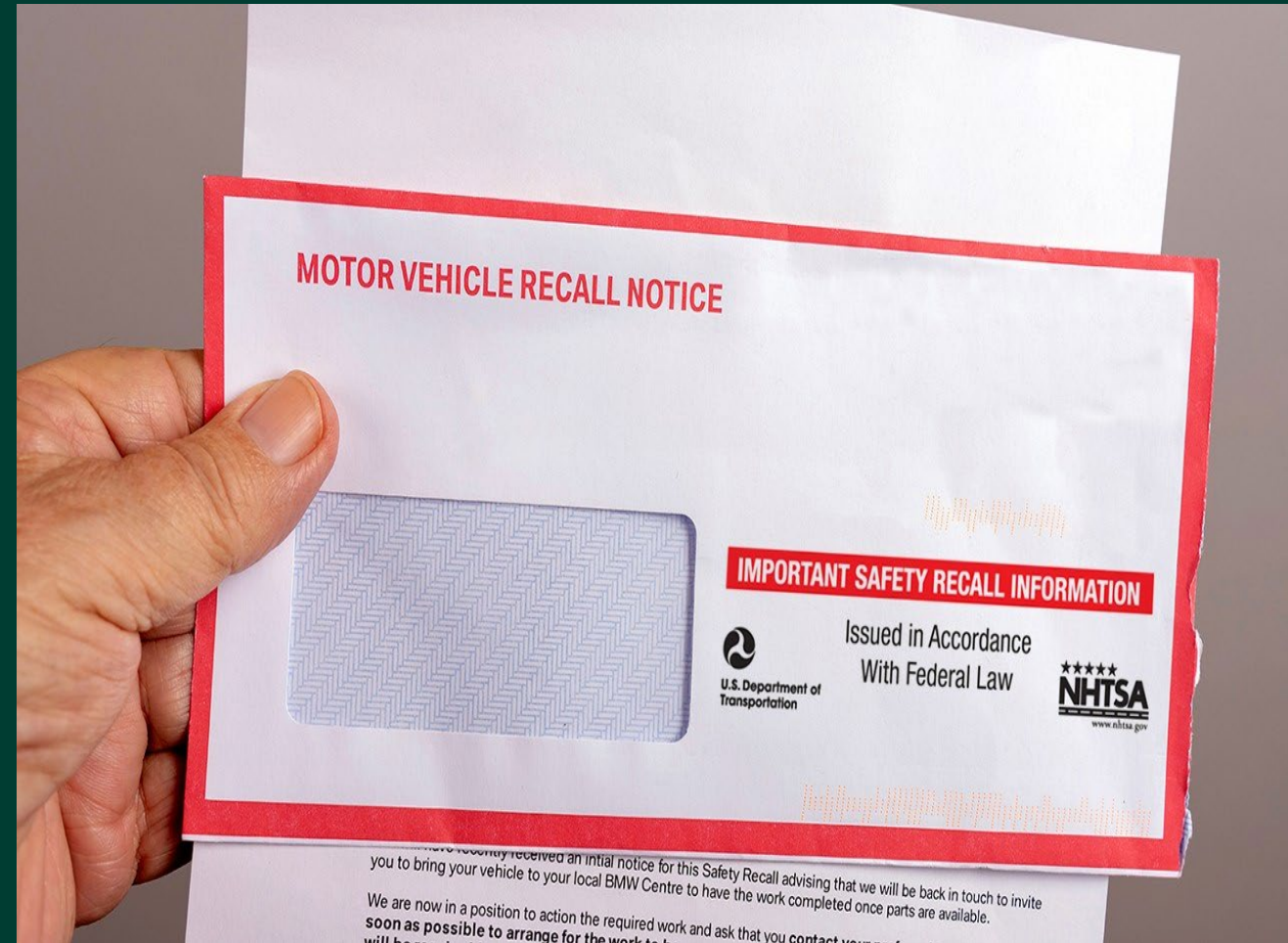
\$2B+

average annual crash costs associated with vehicle defects in the Texas study

There are a number of other studies, including ones from Carnegie Mellon, CITA, the NHTSA, as well as a number of state studies that also conclude that state vehicle safety inspection programs save lives and are effective at making the roads safer.

Nationwide Recall Statistics

- Roughly 25% to 30% of all recalled vehicles in the United States go unrepaired every year.
- According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and CARFAX.
- This means there are currently more than 50 million vehicles traveling on U.S. roads with unresolved, open safety defects.
- Vehicle safety inspection programs identify unresolved recalls on vehicles that are inspected and inform vehicle owners of the need to address the recalled features/components.



New Mexico Statistics

- New Mexico recorded 437 fatal crashes, resulting in a rate of 20.7 deaths per 100,000 residents, according to an analysis of NHTSA data from the [Las Cruces Sun-News](#).
- According to the same report, New Mexico ranks 3rd highest in the nation for fatal car crashes per capita.
- Many factors contribute to this unfortunate reality – but implementing a vehicle safety inspection program can only help make the roads safer for all New Mexicans.



THE TAKEAWAY

A modern inspection program can protect people, support fairness and keep pace with the vehicles on New Mexico roads.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

