

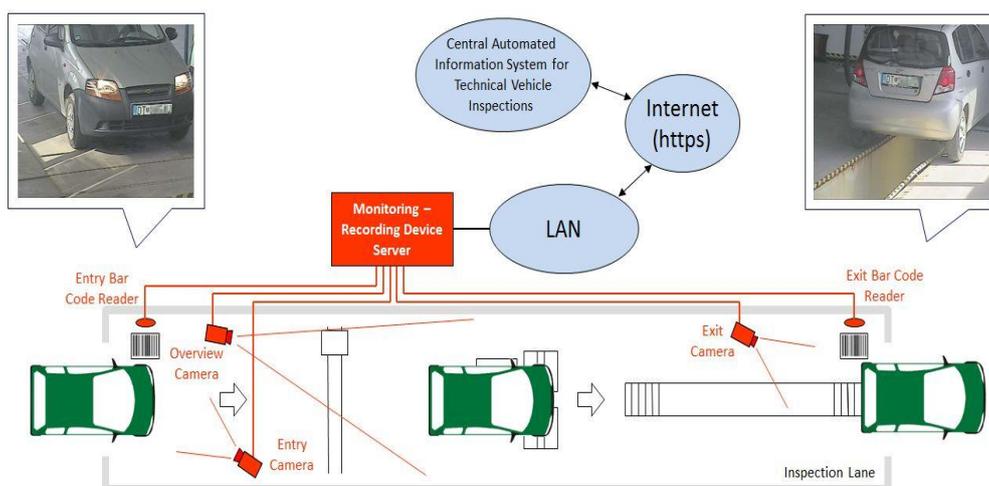
MEMBERS Articles – TESTEK from the Slovak Republic, www.testek.sk

AUTOMATED CAMERA MONITORING OBLIGATORY IN THE SLOVAK VEHICLE INSPECTION SITES IN 2013



The central automated information system for technical vehicle inspections administrated by TESTEK can be simply described as an extensive database containing data of all technical inspections performed in the Slovak Republic. More technically explained it is a modern client - server database application, accessible through the World Wide Web. Since the beginning of 2007 the system is used by all vehicle inspecting sites (STK) over the country. Especially state authorities performing the supervision on the field of vehicle inspections profit from the system's existence. It brought to them better possibilities resulting from the unlimited access to the data in real-time. As next step it will allow them literally "to see" what is going on in every STK in Slovakia.

The authorized technical services of vehicle technical inspections TESTEK and vehicle emission checks S-EKA started on the initiative of the *Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic* to test the possibilities for the installation of video camera systems in STK and their link to the central automated information system as a part of a mutual project with the *National Association of STK* already in the year 2009. Considering the outputs of this project the Ministry decided to introduce from 1 July 2013 a duty to use so called *monitoring - recording devices* in every STK. These devices are video camera systems that should, apart from other functions, automatically send pictures, from the process of the inspection to the central automated information system. Picture sequences shall be assigned to other collected and stored data from the vehicle inspections. Main aim of this measure is, as the Ministry declared, to reduce chances for misconduct during vehicle inspections.



Monitoring - recording device, as defined in the regulations, consists of at least 3 cameras monitoring the inspection lane area. Cameras are connected to a local server, which fulfills three basic functions. It controls the device's functions, sends pictures to the central information system automatically via

internet and it stores video records. Besides that there are other components like bar code readers, cabling, modem, wi-fi router etc.

The monitoring - recording device shall be able to supervise the whole process of inspection, from the first until the last item checked on the vehicle. First camera, located on the inspection lane's entry, is activated by the bar code reader. The vehicle specific bar code is generated and printed from the data stored in the central automated information system. At the moment when the bar code is read, the camera takes a snapshot of the vehicle's front part and sends it to the central information system. This is registered in the system at the beginning of the inspection. If there is a front registration plate on the vehicle, its characters are automatically recognized and compared with data in the central information system.

The task of the second camera is to overview the whole happening on the inspection lane. This camera's video record is stored only on the local server. But snapshots taken by this camera every 5 minutes are immediately sent to the central information system. Due to the protection of personal data the video record must be deleted from the local server after 30 days. In this time period the officer performing state supervision can visit the STK and demand access to the stored video record. If necessary for covering of the major part of the inspection lane area, there can be more than one overview camera.

Finally, there is a camera taking photos at the exit of the lane. Similar to the first camera it is also triggered by the reading of bar code. Its target is the rear part of vehicle exiting the inspection lane after all obligatory items have been checked. The system registers this as the end of the inspection. If there is a rear registration plate, characters are automatically compared with data in the information system.

Marian Rybiansky
Managing Director
TESTEK, s.r.o., Slovak Republic