Autocross Tech Inspection Guide – 2026 (Updated June 2026)

Item	Comments
Tires	There is no required specific minim tread depth. Verify that there is adequate tread to finish the event and to drive home. There must be no visible cording. Inspect tires for significant deficiencies such as cracks or gouges that could affect tire integrity. **Not acceptable:**
Brakes	There is no required specific minim pad thickness. Pads should be generally be greater than 3 mm thick. Verify that there is adequate pad material to finish the event and to drive home.
Wheels/lugs	Ensure that all lugs are present. Visually inspect for any obvious deficiencies.
Loose items	All loose items must be removed from vehicles. Soft items such as wipe cloths, clothing, helmet bags, etc. in trunk/frunk are OK. Remove items **BEFORE** entering the tech inspection line.
Car numbers	**Numbers must be present** on driver and passenger sides of car. Must be **clearly visible** from a "reasonable" distance (ex: the distance from the track to corner workers). Colors must have **sufficient contrast** to the car color, to allow corner workers to easily read the numbers. Attach numbers **BEFORE** entering the tech inspection line.

Battery	Ensure that the battery is secure. There must be a hold-down or other physical structure such as a housing to prevent battery movement.
Leaks	There must be no fluid leaks that would drip from the car onto the track surface. Minor “weeping” at fittings is ok.
Seat belts	Must be in good condition (no tears, no significant fraying, etc.)
Throttle	For cars with a manual throttle return, ensure that the spring returns properly. Look for floor mats or anything else that may impact proper movement of the gas pedal.
Fuel cap	Ensure that a cap is present and that it is tight.
Brake pedal	Ensure that the pedal is firm when pressed. Look for floor mats or anything else that may impact proper movement of the brake pedal.
Helmets	**Ensure that all helmets have a current PCA-SDR sticker.** The sticker will verify that the helmet has been inspected and meets PCA-SDR standards. No need to re-check labels if a sticker is present. If no sticker is present, or the sticker is outdated, ensure that helmet meets one of the acceptable designations, per the tech inspection checklist, and put a current sticker on the lower left side of the helmet. DOT helmets with no SA, SFI, or FIA designation are **not** acceptable. The driver will need to rent or borrow a helmet that meets our requirements.
Completeness of form	Make sure that **ALL** sections of the tech inspection form are completed, and that the form is **signed** and **dated** by the student and the inspector.
Minimum requirements	**The tech inspection form is to ensure that all cars meet our minimum requirements. Any inspector can go beyond these minimum requirements if deemed necessary and/or reasonable for any specific car. Feel free to ask questions to a more-experienced inspector if you have any concerns!**