

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY
1100 Division of Air Quality

1126 Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Sussex County

1.0 Applicability and general provisions

1.1 Applicability

- 1.1.1 Except as provided in subsection 1.2, the standards, requirements and procedures set forth in this regulation are applicable to all motor vehicles, model years 1968 and newer with the exception of the 7 newest model years, titled and registered within Sussex County and as specified by the Department, including any motor vehicles owned or operated by the federal, state and local governments and their agencies.
- 1.1.2 Except as exempted in subsection 1.2, the requirements shall apply to all 1968 and later model year, light duty passenger cars and 1970 and later model year trucks up to 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating registered in Sussex County, beginning on January 11, 2023.
- 1.1.3 The requirements of Section 8.0 shall apply to all certified emission repair technicians in the State of Delaware.
- 1.1.4 In accordance with 21 **Del.C.** §2143, no motor vehicle that is subject to this regulation may be granted registration in the State of Delaware unless the motor vehicle is in compliance with the applicable emissions standards, regardless of its pass/fail status of other tests normally performed at the official inspection station.

1.2 Exemptions. The following motor vehicles are exempt from the requirements of this regulation:

- 1.2.1 The seven most recent model years of light duty passenger cars and trucks.
- 1.2.2 Vehicles manufactured and registered as Kit Cars.
- 1.2.3 Tactical military vehicles used exclusively for military field operations.
- 1.2.4 All motor vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight over 14,000 pounds.
- 1.2.5 All motorcycles and mopeds.
- 1.2.6 All vehicles powered solely by electricity generated from solar cells or stored in batteries.
- 1.2.7 Non-road sources or vehicles not operated on public roads.
- 1.2.8 Model year vehicles 1996 and older powered solely by diesel fuel.
- 1.2.9 Any motor vehicle that is more than 25 years old with a title brand of "reconstructed" that does not qualify to be registered as an antique motor vehicle. The vehicle must continue to meet and be inspected for safety pursuant to 21 **Del.C.** §2147.
- 1.2.10 A motor vehicle registered as an antique motor vehicle, or a street rod shall be exempt from annual inspection pursuant to 21 **Del.C.** §2198. A motor vehicle must pass an initial inspection prior to the motor vehicle being registered as an antique motor vehicle which shall be consistent with the established model year testing procedures as described in Section 4.0, "Vehicle inspection requirements."
- 1.2.11 Any Farm vehicle with license plates ("FV" tags) are exempt from inspection pursuant to 21 **Del.C.** §2113. Any vehicle or trailer upon which a "FV" tag is affixed must be used exclusively in the operative of a farm.

1.3 General provisions

- 1.3.1 Vehicles shall be pre-inspected by DMV prior to the emission inspection and shall be prohibited from testing should any unsafe conditions be found. These unsafe conditions include but are not limited to significant exhaust leaks and significant fluid leaks. The Division and the Department shall not be responsible for major vehicle component failures during the test, of including parts which were deficient or excessively worn prior to the start of the test.
- 1.3.2 Vehicles shall be rejected from testing, as covered in this regulation, if the exhaust system is missing or leaking, or if the vehicle is in an unsafe condition for testing.
- 1.3.3 Effective January 11, 2023 for vehicles registered in Sussex County, in order to qualify for a waiver under Section 7.0 on any 1996 or later model year vehicle, emission repairs shall be performed by a certified emission repair technician as defined in Section 8.0.

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- 1.3.4 Vehicles with engines of a model year older than the chassis model year shall be required to pass the standards commensurate with the chassis model year.
- 1.3.5 Mixing vehicle classes (e.g., light duty with heavy duty) and certification types (e.g., California with Federal) within a single vehicle configuration shall be considered tampering.
- 1.3.6 Subject vehicles which are registered in the program area but are primarily operated in another area shall be tested, either in the area of primary operation, or in the area of registration. Alternate schedules may be established to permit convenient testing of these vehicles (e.g., vehicles belonging to students away at college should be rescheduled for testing during a visit home).
- 1.3.7 Vehicles which are operated on Federal installations located within the State of Delaware shall be tested. This requirement applies to all employee owned or leased vehicles (including vehicles owned, leased, or operated by civilian and military personnel on Federal installations) as well as federal or state owned or operated vehicles, except tactical military vehicles, operated on the installation.
 - 1.3.7.1 This requirement shall not apply to visiting agency, employee, or military personnel vehicles as long as such visits do not exceed 60 calendar days per year.
 - 1.3.7.2 In areas without test fees collected in the lane, arrangements shall be made by the installation with the program for reimbursement of the costs of tests provided for agency vehicles, at the discretion of the Director. The installation manager shall provide documentation of proof of compliance to the Director. The documentation shall include a list of subject vehicles and shall be updated periodically, as determined by the Director, but no less frequently than each inspection cycle. The installation shall use one of the following methods to establish proof of compliance:
 - 1.3.7.2.1 Presentation of a valid certificate of compliance from the program, from any other program at least as stringent as the program described herein, or from any program deemed acceptable by the Director.
 - 1.3.7.2.2 Presentation of proof of vehicle registration within the geographic area covered by the program, except for any Inspection and Maintenance program whose enforcement is not through registration denial.
 - 1.3.7.2.3 Another method approved by the Director.
- 1.3.8 Vehicles that have been switched from an engine of one fuel type to another fuel type that is subject to the program (i.e., from diesel engine to a gasoline engine) shall be subject to the test procedures and standards for the current fuel type.
- 1.3.9 Vehicles that are switched to a fuel type for which there is no certified configuration shall be tested according to the most stringent emission standards established for that vehicle type and model year. Emission control device requirements may be waived if the Division determines that the alternatively fueled vehicle configuration would meet the new vehicle standards for that model year without such devices.
- 1.3.10 Vehicles converted to run on alternate fuels, frequently called a dual-fuel vehicle, shall be tested and required to pass the most stringent standard for each fuel type.
- 1.3.11 Alternative fuel vehicles powered solely by a "clean fuel" such as compressed natural gas, propane, alcohol and similar non-gasoline fuels shall report for inspection to the same emission levels as gasoline powered cars until standards for clean fuel vehicles become available and are adopted by the State.
- 1.3.12 Dual-fuel vehicles able to be powered by more than one fuel, such as a clean fuel (compressed natural gas) and/or gasoline, shall report for inspection to the same emission levels as gasoline powered cars until standards for clean fuel vehicles become available and are adopted by the State.
- 1.3.13 Hybrid electric vehicles shall report for inspection to the same emission levels as gasoline powered cars until standards for hybrid electric vehicles become available and are adopted by the State.
- 1.4 Inspection Facility Requirements
 - 1.4.1 Motor Vehicle associates employed by the Division shall meet the requirements specified in Section 1.0.
 - 1.4.2 Test equipment used by the Division shall be a type approved by the Department and testing procedures shall be conducted.
 - 1.4.3 No person employed by the Division to test motor vehicle emissions shall engage in or have an interest in the operation of repair facilities located in this State; perform emission related repairs for compensation; or recommend repair facilities to owners or operators of vehicles being tested.
- 1.5 Certification of Motor Vehicle Associates

- 1.5.1 In accordance with 40 CFR 51.367(c), a person may not perform the duties of a motor vehicle associate for testing motor vehicle emissions or operating emission testing equipment to determine the compliance or noncompliance of a motor vehicle as required by this regulation at an official inspection station unless that person has applied for and has received certification in accordance with the provision as established by the Division.
- 1.5.2 To become certified, a person shall successfully complete a training course for this purpose approved by the Division.
- 1.6 Calibration and Test Procedures and Approved Equipment
 - 1.6.1 All emissions testing for the purpose of determining compliance with emissions standards shall be performed using equipment approved by the Department.
 - 1.6.2 Calibration: The calibration of equipment shall be in accordance with provisions established by the Division in accordance with 40 CFR 51.359.
 - 1.6.3 Test Procedures: The vehicle emissions test shall be performed in accordance with provisions established by the Division in order to meet the requirements in 40 CFR 51.357.

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2.0 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this regulation, have the following meaning:

"Alternative fuel vehicle" means any vehicle capable of operating on one or more fuels, none of which are gasoline or diesel, and which is subject to emission testing to the same stringency as a similar gasoline or diesel fueled vehicle.

"ASE L1" means "Advanced Engine Performance Specialist Test" certificate as provided by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. The ASE "Advanced Engine Performance Specialist (L1) Test" contains questions that test technicians' knowledge in the diagnosis and repair of computer-controlled engine systems.

"Carbon dioxide" or **"CO₂"** means colorless, odorless, incombustible gas resulting from oxidation of carbon. It is the primary greenhouse gas emitted through human activities.

"Carbon monoxide" or **"CO"** means a colorless, odorless gas that can be harmful when inhaled in large quantity. Their greatest sources are cars, trucks, or machinery that burn fossil fuels.

"Certified emission repair technician" or **"CERT"** means an automotive repair technician certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence and has received an ASE L1 "Advanced Engine Performance Specialist Test" certificate or an equivalent certificate from a program approved by the Department and has been issued a permit by the Department.

"Curb-Idle Test" means an exhaust emissions test sampling and analysis performed while the vehicle engine is operating at or approximately at the vehicle manufacturer's recommended normal curb idle speed.

"Department" means the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control of the State of Delaware.

"Director" means the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Transportation.

"Division" means the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Public Safety of the State of Delaware.

"Dual-fuel vehicle" means a vehicle with two fuel storage tanks capable of operating on more than one fuel type, one of which is gasoline and cannot be operated on a mixture of the fuels.

"Emissions" means products of combustion discharged into the atmosphere from the tailpipe of a motor vehicle engine.

"Emission inspection area" means the emissions inspection area will constitute the entire State effective April 1, 1990.

"Emission standards" means the maximum concentration of hydrocarbons (HC), and carbon monoxide (CO), or any combination thereof, allowed in the emissions from a motor vehicle as established by the Secretary, as described in this regulation.

"Exhaust emission test" means the curb idle test.

"Evaporative system integrity test" means a comprehensive range of testing methods to determine the evaporative emissions levels of your vehicles, engines and fuel system components.

"Failed motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle which does not comply with applicable emission standards, evaporative system function check or on-board diagnostic requirements and emission control device inspection requirements during the initial test or any retest.

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"Farm vehicles" or **"FV"** means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines and other implements of agriculture.

"Flexible fuel vehicle" means any vehicle with one fuel storage tank capable of operating on more than one fuel type, one of which includes gasoline, which must be tested to program standards for gasoline. This is in contrast to alternative fuel vehicles.

"Gross vehicle weight" or **"GVW"** means the vehicle gross weight as designated by the manufacturer as the total weight of the vehicle and its maximum allowable load.

"High emitting vehicle" or **"HEV"** means a vehicle with emissions three times the applicable standard established by Table 4-1 for the exhaust emission test. For applicable 1996 and newer vehicles, an HEV means a vehicle with emissions three times the standard for group 5 in Table 4-1.

"Hybrid electric vehicle" means any vehicle that has two power sources: an electric motor to propel its wheels, and a gasoline engine to recharge the vehicle's electrical storage system. In some configurations the gasoline engine also assists the electric motor with propulsion.

"Hydrocarbon" or **"HC"** means organic compound made of carbons and hydrogen atom. They are found in crude oil and natural gases.

"I/M Subject Vehicle" means a vehicle registered or required to be registered at a residence or business address within a county or district and which is subject to the State of Delaware registration fee pursuant to Delaware Code Title 21. Motor Vehicle § 2143 of the inspection of motor vehicle before registration; exception; vehicle outside State.

"Inspection period" means the two-year (biennial) period beginning the date which the vehicle passes inspection.

"Invalid test condition" means the system is unable to establish a clear result.

"Kit car" means a car, especially a sports car, assembled by the owner from a set of prefabricated parts supplied by the manufacturer. Kit cars should use a complete powertrain matching an existing configuration that has an EPA certificate of conformity. Kit cars must be clearly labeled as to the make, model year, engine family, subfamily, and tune-up specifications represented by the originally certified engine/powertrain donor vehicle.

"Light duty vehicle" means light duty vehicles and light duty trucks, rated up to 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating.

"Malfunction indicator lamp" or **"MIL"** means the dashboard light on a vehicle that when illuminated indicates an emission control device is not working to the manufacturer's specifications. The MIL is also known as the check engine light.

"Model year" means the year of manufacture of a vehicle as designated by the manufacturer, or the model year designation assigned by the Division to a vehicle constructed by other than the original manufacturer.

"Motor vehicle" means every vehicle, as defined in 21 Del.C. §101, which is self-propelled, except farm tractors and off-highway vehicles.

"Motor vehicle associate" means a person who has completed an approved emissions inspection equipment training program, who is both authorized and performs vehicle inspection requirements and is employed or under contract with the State of Delaware.

"Motor vehicle officer" means a person who has completed an approved emissions inspection equipment training program and is employed by an official inspection station.

"New model year exemption" means an exemption of a designated range of model year vehicles and refers to new motor vehicles and the initial registration or renewal of vehicles no older than 7 model years. For example, a 2022 model year granted a new model year exemption of seven years would be exempt until the first vehicle inspection due date in calendar year 2028.

"New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle of the current or preceding model year that has never been previously titled or registered in this or any other jurisdiction and whose ownership document remains as a manufacturer's certificate of origin.

"OBD diagnostic trouble code" or **"DTC"** means a code that provides information on an OBD equipped motor vehicle's emission control system malfunction status.

"Official inspection station" means all official Motor Vehicle Inspection facilities operated by the Division of Motor Vehicles in the State of Delaware.

"On-board diagnostics" or **"OBD"** means a system of vehicle component and condition monitors controlled by a central, on-board computer designed to signal the motorist when conditions exist which could lead to a vehicle's exceeding its certification standards by 1.5 times the standard.

"On-Board Diagnostics Test" means providing the driver with an early warning of potentially high emissions and stores important information about detected malfunctions so that a repair technician can accurately find and fix the problem.

"Reasonable cost" means the actual cost of parts and labor which is necessary to cause the failed motor vehicle to comply with applicable emissions standards or which contributes toward compliance. It shall not include the cost of those repairs determined by the Division to be necessary due to alteration or removal of any part of the emission control system of the motor vehicle, or due to any damage resulting from the use of improper fuel in the failed motor vehicle.

"Reconstructed vehicle" means any vehicle which has been assembled or constructed largely by means of essential parts, new or used, derived from other vehicles or makes of vehicles of various names, models and types, or which, if originally otherwise constructed, has been materially altered by the removal of essential parts or by the addition or substitution of essential parts, new or used, derived from other vehicles or makes of vehicles.

"Registered gross vehicle weight (G.V.W.)" means the vehicle gross weight designated by the Division on the vehicle registration card which is the total weight of the vehicle and its maximum allowable load.

"Registration denial" means the rejection of an application for initial registration of a vehicle or re-registration of a used vehicle (i.e., a vehicle being registered after the initial retail sale and associated registration) unless the vehicle has complied with the program requirement before granting the application.

"Repair Waiver" means an exemption issued to a motor vehicle that, after initial I/M inspection and subsequent vehicle repair and re-inspection, does not comply with the applicable emissions testing standards and requirements and has received emission system repairs to a cost amount up to the repair waiver expenditure limit, but which cannot be repaired for reasonable cost, per the requirements of Section 7.0.

"Repair Waiver Expenditure Limit" means the minimum cost of vehicle repairs required to be completed in order to qualify for a waiver.

"Sale" or **"sell"** means the transfer of equitable or legal title to a motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine to the ultimate purchaser.

"Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

"Standards" means a standard of performance.

"Subject fleet vehicle" means any vehicle owned, leased, or operated by an individual or entity granted a vehicle emissions testing.

"Subject vehicle" means the vehicle being tested.

"Tampering" means remove or make inoperable any system or device used to control emissions from a motor vehicle engine.

"Unsafe condition" means a vehicle which presents an immediate safety hazard.

"Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks and excepting off-highway vehicles.

"Vehicle type" means the EPA classification of motor vehicles by weight class which includes the terms light duty and heavy-duty vehicle.

"Visual Catalyst Inspection" means inspections of subject emission control devices if such devices are found to be incorrect for the certified vehicle configuration under inspection. Aftermarket parts, as well as original equipment manufacturer parts, may be considered correct if they are proper for the certified vehicle configuration.

"Waiver" means an exemption issued to a motor vehicle that cannot comply with the applicable emissions standard and cannot be repaired for reasonable cost.

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3.0 [Reserved]

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4.0 Vehicle inspection requirements

4.1 General provisions.

4.1.1 Each vehicle subject to this regulation not otherwise exempted under Section 1.0 shall be inspected at least once every two years at an official inspection station operated by the Division.

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- 4.1.2 All subject fleet vehicles shall be inspected at an official inspection station operated by the Division or at an alternate inspection station approved by the Director.
- 4.1.3 HC, CO, CO+CO₂ (or CO₂ alone) emission standards shall be applicable to all vehicles subject to these requirements (e.g. 1995 and older vehicles) and if a vehicle fails any applicable emissions standard, repairs shall be required for failure of all any emissions standards.
- 4.1.4 Initial tests (i.e., those occurring for the first time in a test cycle) shall be performed without repair or adjustment to the vehicle being tested at the inspection station, before or during the test.
- 4.1.5 An official test, once initiated, shall be performed in its entirety regardless of intermediate outcomes except in the case of invalid test condition, unsafe conditions, fast pass/fail algorithms, or, in the case of the on-board diagnostic (OBD) system check, unset readiness codes.
- 4.1.6 Tests involving measurements shall be performed with equipment that has been calibrated according to the quality control procedures established by the Department.
- 4.1.7 After an initial failure of any portion of any exhaust emission test in the LEIM program, all vehicles shall be retested automatically. Both initial and automatic retest shall constitute Test 1. After failure of Test 2, prior to Test 3, proof of appropriate repairs must be submitted indicating the type of repairs and parts installed (if any). This shall be done by completing the "Vehicle Emissions Repair Report Form" as developed and provided by the Division.
- 4.1.8 Any vehicle entering the inspection lane while smoking excessively or with coolant, oil, or fuel leaks, or any other such defect that is unsafe, shall be rejected from the testing area.
- 4.2 Exhaust emission testing procedures and standards. Exhaust emissions which include 1968 to 1995 model year vehicles subject to exhaust emission testing under this regulation shall be equal to or less than the rates specified in Table 4-1; determined in response to the following idle test requirements:
 - 4.2.1 The motor vehicle associate shall insert a probe at least 10 inches into the exhaust pipe.
 - 4.2.2 Genuine dual exhaust vehicles shall be tested with a dual exhaust probe.
 - 4.2.3 The analysis of exhaust gas concentrations shall begin 10 seconds after the applicable test mode begins.
 - 4.2.4 Exhaust gas concentrations shall be analyzed at a minimum rate of two times per second. The measured value for pass/fail determinations shall be a simple running average of the measurements taken over five seconds. The vehicle shall be tested in as received condition with the transmission in neutral or park and all accessories turned off. The engine shall be at normal operating temperature and idle speed.
 - 4.2.5 The test shall immediately end upon reaching the overall maximum test time of 145 seconds.

Group	Auto/Station Wagons (passenger vehicles)	Pickup/Van under 8501 pounds	Hydrocarbon (HC) Limit (ppm)	Carbon Monoxide (CO) Limit (%)
1	1968-70	1970-72	900	9.00
2	1971-74	1973-78	600	6.00
3	1975-79	1979-83	400	4.00
4	1980	(none)	220	2.00
5	1981-95	1984-95	220	1.20

- 4.3 Evaporative emission procedures and standards. 1975 through 1995 model year vehicles shall pass the gas cap test pursuant to the following requirements:
 - 4.3.1 The motor vehicle associate shall perform a visual check of the gas cap for proper fit and installation. The gas cap shall be checked to ensure that it is properly, but not excessively tighten, and shall be tighten if necessary. If the gas cap is missing or damaged, the gas cap shall fail the visual inspection.

- 4.3.2 The motor vehicle associate shall locate the correct gas cap adapter model for the gas cap. The gas cap will be tested (pressurized) using the adapter to determine the effectiveness of the gas cap and identify significant leaks. If significant leaks are identified, the gas cap shall fail the gas cap testing procedures.
- 4.3.3 This completes the gas cap testing procedures.
- 4.4 On-board diagnostic procedures and standards
 - 4.4.1 The following vehicles shall be subject to OBD II tests pursuant to the following procedures:
 - 4.4.1.1 Model year 1996 and later model year gasoline fueled vehicles weighing up to 8,500 GVW;
 - 4.4.1.2 Model year 1997 and later model year diesel fueled vehicles weighing up to 8,500 GVW; and
 - 4.4.1.3 Model year 2008 and later model year gasoline and diesel fueled vehicles weighing 8,501 -14,000 GVW.
 - 4.4.2 Test procedure
 - 4.4.2.1 The motor vehicle associate shall locate the Diagnostic Link Connector in the vehicle and insert the on-board diagnostic connecting cable. The vehicle's emission control device information from the vehicle's computer shall be transmitted to the DMV on-board diagnostic equipment for the test to be completed successfully.
 - 4.4.2.2 The motor vehicle associate shall observe the MIL (malfunction indicator lamp) when the ignition key is in the on position and then when the engine is turned on and running.
 - 4.4.3 Vehicles shall fail the OBD test if any of the following conditions exist:
 - 4.4.3.1 Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL) is not lit during key on, engine off check of bulb;
 - 4.4.3.2 MIL lit (or commanded on) for any Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTC) during engine on mode;
 - 4.4.3.3 Data Link Connector (DLC) is damaged, missing, tampered or obstructed by an after-market device;
 - 4.4.3.4 More than two unset readiness codes for model years 1996-2000; or
 - 4.4.3.5 More than one unset readiness code for model years 2001 and newer.
 - 4.4.4 1995 and newer light-duty vehicles and light-duty trucks not equipped by the manufacturer with certified on-board diagnostics systems with the exception of tampered or removed systems shall be required to undergo the curb idle test.
- 4.5 Visual equipment inspection standards.
 - 4.5.1 1975 through 1995 model year vehicles shall pass a visual inspection of the catalytic converter.
 - 4.5.2 Visual inspection of emission control devices shall be performed through direct observation or through indirect observation using a mirror. These inspections shall include a determination as to whether each subject device is present.
 - 4.5.3 Vehicles shall fail visual inspection of subject emission control devices if such devices are part of the original certified configuration and are found to be missing, modified, disconnected, or improperly connected.

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5.0 Motor Vehicle Anti-Tampering Requirements

- 5.1 No person shall sell, offer for sale, possess for sale, advertise, manufacture, install, or use any part or component intended for use with or as part of any motor vehicle when the primary effect is to bypass, defeat, or render inoperative, in whole or part, the emission control system.
- 5.2 No person shall tamper with any emission control system installed on or in a motor vehicle after sale, lease, or rental and delivery of the vehicle to the ultimate purchaser, lessee, or renter.
- 5.3 No person shall operate a motor vehicle that has been tampered with if the motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine has been certified by the United States environmental protection agency as meeting federal emission control standards.
- 5.4 No person may remove or make inoperable any system or device used to control emissions from a motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine or any part thereof, except where the purpose of removal of the system or device, or part thereof, is to install another system or device, or part thereof, which is equally effective in reducing emissions from the vehicle.

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6.0 On-road inspection standards and test procedures

- 6.1 Periodic random Delaware registered vehicle pullovers or on-road testing on Delaware highways may occur without prior notice to the public for on-road vehicle exhaust emission testing.
- 6.1.1 Vehicles identified by the on-road testing program as high-emitting vehicles may be notified of the requirement for an out-of-cycle emission retest, and shall have 30 days from the date of the notice to appear for inspection.
- 6.1.2 Vehicles not appearing for a retest shall be out of compliance, and be liable for penalties under Title 21 of Delaware Criminal and Traffic Law Manual and the Division shall take action to suspend the vehicle registration.

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7.0 Vehicle emission inspection waivers

- 7.1 Waiver issuance criteria
- 7.1.1 Motorists shall expend a reasonable cost, as defined in Section 2.0 in order to qualify for a waiver.
- 7.1.1.1 For vehicles failing the exhaust emissions test under subsection 4.1, in order to qualify for waiver, repairs (cost of parts and labor) on any 1981 or later model year vehicle shall be performed by a certified emission repair technician, as defined in Section 3.0, and must have been appropriate to correct the emission failure.
- 7.1.1.2 In order to qualify for a waiver, repairs of primary emission control components (cost of parts only) on any 1981 through 1995 vehicle (OBD-equipped vehicles not included) may be performed by non-permitted technicians (e.g., vehicle owners) and must have been appropriate to correct the emission failure.
- 7.1.1.3 The waiver would apply to the cost of parts for the repair or replacement of the following list of emission control component systems:
- 7.1.1.3.1 Air induction system (air filter, oxygen sensor);
- 7.1.1.3.2 Catalytic converter system (converter, preheat catalyst);
- 7.1.1.3.3 Thermal reactor;
- 7.1.1.3.4 EGR system (valve, passage/hose, sensor);
- 7.1.1.3.5 PCV System, air injection system (air pump, check valve);
- 7.1.1.3.6 Ignition system (distributor, ignition wires, coil, spark plugs).
- 7.1.1.3.7 The cost of any hoses, gaskets, belts, clamps, brackets or other emission accessories directly associated with these components may also be applied to the waiver limit.
- 7.1.1.4 For vehicles failing the exhaust emissions (tailpipe) test under subsection 4.2, in order to qualify for waiver, repairs (cost of parts and labor) on any 1981 through 1995 year vehicle shall be performed by a technician as defined in Section 8.0, and must have been appropriate to correct the emission failure.
- 7.1.1.5 For vehicles failing the on-board diagnostics test under subsection 4.4.3 in order to qualify for waiver, repairs on any 1996 or later model year vehicle shall be performed by a certified emission repair technician (CERT) as defined in Section 8.0, and must have been appropriate to correct the specific OBD code which resulted in the initial failure.
- 7.1.2 Any available warranty coverage shall be used to obtain needed repairs before expenditures can be counted towards the cost limits in subsection 7.1.4. The owner or operator of a vehicle within the statutory age and mileage coverage under the engine warranty requirements found in section 207(b) of the Clean Air Act shall present a written denial of warranty coverage from the manufacturer or authorized dealer for this provision to be waived for approved tests applicable to the vehicle.
- 7.1.3 Original receipts shall be submitted for review to further verify that qualifying repairs were performed to the vehicle failing the initial test. Original receipts cannot be used more than once for verification.
- 7.1.4 A minimum expenditure for repairs required to qualify for a waiver for pre-1981 model year vehicles shall be \$75.
- 7.1.5 For 1981 and newer model year vehicles:
- 7.1.5.1 The minimum expenditure for repairs shall be \$200 in 2023-2024.
- 7.1.5.2 The minimum expenditure shall be \$450 in 2025-2026.

- 7.1.5.3 Starting January 1, 2027 and for each subsequent year, the \$450 minimum expenditure shall be adjusted in January of that year by the percentage, if any, by which the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year differs from the Consumer Price Index for 1989.
- 7.1.6 In 2027 and each year thereafter, the expenditure for repairs will be equivalent to the current minimum expenditure for repairs in New Castle and Kent Counties.
- 7.1.7 The issuance of a waiver applies only to those vehicles failing an exhaust emission or non-evaporative on-board diagnostics tests. No waivers are granted to vehicles failing the evaporative emission integrity test.
- 7.1.8 Waivers shall be issued by the Director or his/her designee after a vehicle has failed a retest for the exhaust emissions or on-board diagnostic portions of the inspection, performed after all qualifying repairs have been completed or non-evaporative emissions codes have been cleared.
- 7.1.9 Qualifying repairs include repairs of primary emission control components as defined in subsection 7.1.1.2 performed within 90 days of the initial test date.
- 7.1.10 Waivers issued in response to this regulation are valid through the current vehicle inspection cycle.
- 7.1.11 Waivers shall not be issued to vehicles for tampering-related repairs. The cost of tampering related repairs shall not be applicable to the minimum expenditure in subsections 7.1.4, 7.1.5, and 7.1.6. The Director shall issue exemptions for tampering-related repairs if it can be verified that the part in question or one similar to it is no longer available for sale.
- 7.2 Compliance via diagnostics inspection. Vehicles subject to an emission test at the exhaust emission standards shown in Table 4-1 may be issued a certificate of compliance without meeting the prescribed emission exhaust emission standards, if after failing a retest on emissions, a complete, documented physical and functional diagnosis and inspection performed by a certified emission repair technician shows that no additional emission related repairs are needed.

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8.0 Certified emission repair technicians

- 8.1 Emission repair technician certification
 - 8.1.1 An emission repair technician may be certified as trained to do emission repairs on all makes of vehicles or vehicles of a specific manufacturer. Auto repair technicians seeking to become certified under 7 **DE Admin. Code** 1126 shall meet one of the following requirements:
 - 8.1.1.1 Applicants that are currently ASE-L1 certified as of 06/11/2012 shall be permitted by the Department for the period the ASE-L1 certification is current.
 - 8.1.1.2 New applicants shall be ASE-L1 certified or present certification from an equivalent program which is approved by the Department and the Division.
 - 8.1.2 A certified emission repair technician permit or any renewal of that shall be valid for a period not to exceed five years from the date of issuance, unless sooner revoked by order of the Department, and may be renewed on application to and approval by the Department.
 - 8.1.3 At the time of application to receive certification, a certified emission repair technician shall also make application in accordance with section 8.3 to receive a permit to conduct drive-cycle testing of vehicles that are not in compliance with 21 **Del.C.** §2115.
- 8.2 Vehicle drive-cycle testing permit
 - 8.2.1 Applicability. Vehicle drive-cycle testing permits shall be issued to all certified emission repair technicians to conduct drive-cycle testing of vehicles that are not in compliance with 21 **Del.C.** §2115.
 - 8.2.2 General provisions
 - 8.2.2.1 This regulation establishes the procedures that satisfy the requirement of 7 **Del.C.** §6706 to provide a permit to certified emission repair technicians to conduct drive-cycle testing of vehicles that are not in compliance with 21 **Del.C.** §2115.
 - 8.2.2.2 Any permit issued by the Department in response to this regulation shall not relieve the certified emission repair technician of the responsibility of following applicable local, State, and Federal laws and regulations.
 - 8.2.3 Cancellation of permits. The Department may cancel the vehicle drive-cycle testing permit if the certified emission repair technician fails to maintain their certification as required by subsection 7.1.
 - 8.2.4 Action on applications

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- 8.2.4.1 If an application is disapproved, the Department shall set forth its objections in the notice of disapproval.
- 8.2.4.2 On issuing the permit for vehicle drive-cycle testing, the Department shall give notice of such approval to any person who has submitted a written request for such notice.
- 8.2.5 Transfer of permit prohibited. A vehicle drive-cycle testing permit is non-transferrable and cannot be transferred from or used by anyone other than the certified emissions repair technician to whom it is issued. No person shall transfer a vehicle drive-cycle testing permit to another person.
- 8.2.6 Availability of permit. Any permit issued by the Department in response to Section 8.0 shall be in the possession of the certified emission repair technician when operating any vehicle that is not in compliance with 21 **Del.C.** §2115 in order to conduct drive-cycle testing.
- 8.2.7 Permit expiration. A vehicle on-board diagnostics testing permit or any renewal thereof shall be valid for a period not to exceed five years from the date of issuance, unless sooner revoked by order of the Department, and may be renewed upon application to and approval by the Department.
- 8.3 Permit and certified emission repair technician application
 - 8.3.1 Any person identified in subsections 8.1 and 8.2.2 shall submit to the Department a complete application for a vehicle drive-cycle testing permit on forms furnished by the Department. Permit application forms are available online or from the Department on request.
 - 8.3.2 The application shall include the following:
 - 8.3.2.1 Name and location of auto repair facility where applicant is employed.
 - 8.3.2.2 Applicant's emission repair certification information.
 - 8.3.2.3 Name of certifying organization.
 - 8.3.2.4 Date certified.
 - 8.3.2.5 Date certification expires.
 - 8.3.2.6 Insurance Information (e.g. Shopkeeper's or Garage Keeper's Policy) including policy number, policy expiration date and name of issuing agent.
 - 8.3.2.7 The application shall contain the following language from the applicant: "I certify, based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the statements and information in the document are true, accurate, and complete."
 - 8.3.3 The applicant shall submit any additional information requested by the Department deemed necessary to process the application.
- 8.4 Permit and certified repair technician certification fees.
 - 8.4.1 Pursuant to with 7 **Del.C.** §6706, the Department may establish permit fees to recover costs reasonably related to the issuance of such permits.
 - 8.4.2 The permit fee shall be \$125 for the 5-year period (which shall be a pro-rated permit fee of \$25 per year for each year or partial year of the permit) covering the permit and certification of the certified emission repair technician.
 - 8.4.3 Permits issued for any period less than 5 years shall be pro-rated the permit fee \$25 per year for each year of the permit.

26 DE Reg. 598 (01/01/23)

9.0 Enforcement and Registration Denial

- 9.1 Vehicle registration enforcement is the express responsibility of the Division with the assistance of police agencies for on road inspection and verification.
- 9.2 The Division shall provide an external, readily visible means of determining vehicle compliance with the registration requirement to facilitate enforcement of the program.
- 9.3 Owners of subject vehicles must provide valid proof of having received a passing emissions test or a waiver issued by the Director or the Director's designee in order to receive a valid vehicle registration from the Division.

4 DE Reg. 1261 (02/01/01)

12 DE Reg. 347 (09/01/08)

26 DE Reg. 598 (01/01/23)