

Emission Check Program Changes: What the AES Needs to Know

Background

A new Emission Check Program rule and contract took effect July 1, 2012. Much of the program remains the same, but a few things have changed.

What's new?

Vehicles will now fail an OBD test when:

- The vehicle's OBD system is unable to transmit data. When this happens, "NA" will appear in all test result fields.
- Not enough of the required readiness monitors are ready to report. (This will also result in an "incomplete" test.)
- Manufacturer codes are commanding the check engine light on.

A two-speed idle (TSI) tailpipe test has replaced the ASM (dynamometer) test. Differences are:

- Cut points for failing tests have changed to three percent carbon monoxide and 400 parts per million hydrocarbons for all pre-1996 vehicles.
- The HC and CO emission test results are now being adjusted higher to account for the air dilution of the exhaust sample. The CO + CO₂ readings must still be six percent or greater for a valid test unless the HC reading is 1,800 ppm. With ideal complete combustion and no air leaks, the CO₂ reading would be 15.6 percent. The CO₂ reading will always be lower because of dilution, and because some carbon is used to form CO or HC.

The SNAP acceleration test for diesel vehicles has changed. Changes include:

- Failing opacity readings are now 50 percent for 1991 and older vehicles, 40 percent for 1992-96 vehicles, and 30 percent for 1997 and newer vehicles.
- The opacity meter probe now checks for an increase in exhaust temperature during each snap. This helps ensure that the accelerator pedal is fully depressed during the test.
- More diesel vehicles are now exempt from testing: all diesel vehicles with a scale weight of 6,000 pounds or less and all 2007 and newer diesel vehicles are exempt.

New test station hours:

- 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
- 8:30 am to 6:00 pm on Thursday
- 8:30 am to 2:00 pm Saturday

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Special Accommodations

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Air Quality Program at (360) 407-6800. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.