



# Exhaust Notes

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## Service writers' top 10



As an AES, you know how to help a customer through the emission testing process. You may, however, have limited contact with the customer.

While you are repairing vehicles in the garage, it's usually the service writer who works directly with customers.

The service writer has an important role in the emission repair process. She or he may have to explain needed repairs to a customer. It's often up to the service writer to make sure the customer has what she or he needs to get a waiver.

For the service writer in your shop:

- 1) Remind technicians to notify Ecology when they change shop locations. Please call your Ecology representative. (See page 4.) **Each technician is assigned to only one shop.**
- 2) Technicians must sign the Vehicle Inspection Report if

they do any repair or diagnosis on vehicles for emissions failures.

3) In order for a customer to receive a waiver, they must spend \$150 minimum. That may include diagnosis or repairs from more than one shop.

4) Provide customers with an itemized list of appropriate emission repairs. The list should show priority of repairs.

5) Emission repairs should show improvement, but this is **not** a requirement.

6) Technicians diagnose and repair vehicles. They do not issue waivers. Only a test station manager can issue a waiver.

7) AES technicians must do their own work. Work that another technician performs under an AES's supervision does not qualify for a waiver.

8) Do not "clear the codes" on OBDII unless the manufacturer requires this as part of the appropriate repair for a specific failure.

9) Any malfunction that commands the check engine light on will create an emissions failure (i.e., power steering, transmission, air conditioning, etc.). **This includes P0000, P1000, P2000, P3000 codes.**

10) OBDII vehicles that are not ready for testing due to monitor status must have the failing component monitor set after repair in order to pass the test. If repairs do not correct the problem or if diagnosis only is performed, the vehicle will qualify for a waiver.

## Non-compliant OBD system alert



In April 2014, The California Air Resources Board (CARB) fined Ford Motor Company \$2.96 million for selling non-compliant OBD systems.

OBD systems constantly monitor critical engine and

emission control system operations. They alert drivers to problems by turning on the vehicle's check engine light.

Routine CARB testing revealed that some 2011 and 2012 model year Ford Fiestas sold in California had non-compliant diagnostic systems and improperly designed data link connectors.

In Washington, these vehicles will never need emission tests. However, a customer might

need help diagnosing trouble codes.

What should you do if a customer brings in a Ford Fiesta with a non-compliant OBD system? Send the customer to a dealer who will repair or replace the diagnostic connector. The dealer can also re-flash the computer software to make it compliant.



# Training Spotlight

## Keep Your Authorization Current

Interested in becoming an Authorized Emission Specialist? Is it time to update your AES training? If so, these instructors offer Ecology-authorized training.

Contact instructors for class availability and cost.

### Clark County

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### King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties

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### Spokane County

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**You must take an Ecology-authorized training every two years to stay in the AES program.**

If you have questions about training, please contact emission check staff listed for your county on page 4.

# Tips for Technicians

## Readiness indicators

Emission test failure due to lack of readiness causes headaches for technicians and customers alike. Often, all a technician can do is advise the customer to drive the vehicle for an unspecified amount of time.



Readiness devices, covered in previous issues of *Exhaust Notes*, can help. Better yet, some vehicles actually have built-in readiness tests.

A simple test can tell drivers of certain vehicles if OBD monitors are ready to test. The following list is provided by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency:

**Newer Ford, Lincoln, and Mercury:** Turn on the ignition without starting the engine. If the

“service engine soon” light stays on, the vehicle is ready to test. If the light blinks eight times, the vehicle is not yet ready to test.

**Jeep, Chrysler, and Dodge:** Turn the ignition switch to the ON position without starting the engine. Wait 15 seconds. If the MIL stays on, the vehicle is ready to test. If the MIL flashes for about 10 seconds before staying on, the vehicle is not ready.

**Honda and Acura:** Turn the ignition switch to the ON position without starting the engine. The MIL will come on for 20 seconds. If it goes off, the vehicle is ready. If it blinks 5 times, the vehicle is not ready.

A steady check engine light or MIL usually indicates that the vehicle is ready to test. A flashing light usually indicates the vehicle is not yet ready. The length of time the light flashes varies among manufacturers.

The model years that feature readiness checks vary among manufacturers. Check the owner’s manual to see if the vehicle has a readiness indicator.



## Drive Cycles

After an emission repair, a vehicle must complete a drive cycle before it can pass an emission test.

Most of the time, simply driving the vehicle for several days will reset the monitors to ready status. It helps to vary driving conditions to include both highway and city driving.

Here are some drive cycles for several popular vehicles:

### Generic drive cycles

<http://ls1tech.com/forums/attachments/pcm-diagnostics-tuning/121034d1203644595-obd-readiness-driving-procedure-obdii-readiness-test.gif>

[www.lyberty.com/car/drive-cycle.html](http://www.lyberty.com/car/drive-cycle.html)

[www.aalcar.com/library/us796obd.htm](http://www.aalcar.com/library/us796obd.htm)

[www.obd2.com/support/reprog/reprog\\_docs.htm#gm\\_supp-reqs](http://www.obd2.com/support/reprog/reprog_docs.htm#gm_supp-reqs)

### BMW

[www.europeantransmissions.com/Bulletin/DTC.BMW/BMW%20FTP72%20Drive%20Cycle%20Procedure.pdf](http://www.europeantransmissions.com/Bulletin/DTC.BMW/BMW%20FTP72%20Drive%20Cycle%20Procedure.pdf)

### Chrysler/Dodge/Jeep

[www.obd2.com/support/reprog/downloads/chrysler/chry-imset\\_procedure.pdf](http://www.obd2.com/support/reprog/downloads/chrysler/chry-imset_procedure.pdf)

### GM (Chevy, Buick, Cadillac, GMC, Oldsmobile, Pontiac)

[www.obdii.com/drivecycle.html](http://www.obdii.com/drivecycle.html)

### Honda/Acura

Owner’s manual lists drive cycles.

### Hyundai/Kia

[www.hyundaitechinfo.com/](http://www.hyundaitechinfo.com/)

[www.kiatechinfo.com/](http://www.kiatechinfo.com/)

### Mitsubishi

[www.obdclearinghouse.com/documents/tsb0013005.pdf](http://www.obdclearinghouse.com/documents/tsb0013005.pdf)

### Subaru

<http://techinfo.subaru.com/index.html>

<http://techinfo.subaru.com/proxy/65245/pdf/065245-11-72-0458832.pdf>

### Toyota/Lexus

[www.watrd.com/work/TSB\\_EG003-02\\_%28revised%29.pdf](http://www.watrd.com/work/TSB_EG003-02_%28revised%29.pdf)

### Volvo

Owner’s manuals lists drive cycles.



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(360) 407-6800, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).*

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**Emission Check**   
You're on the Road to Cleaner Air.