



Texas Department of Public Safety
Regulatory Services Division
www.dps.texas.gov

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TEXAS On-Road Vehicle Emissions Testing (TORVET) Program

In accordance with the Federal Clean Air Act, Texas is required to conduct an on-road testing program for carbon monoxide or ozone in non-attainment metropolitan areas. The primary objective of any such program is to improve air quality by identifying and causing the repair of vehicles that are contributing excessive amounts of ozone producing compounds such as hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen and/or other toxins, such as carbon monoxide.

On-road testing is used to sample vehicles in the four affected metropolitan areas of Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston, and the early action compact (EAC) area of Travis and Williamson counties. Once a vehicle is sampled, an analysis is made of the readings and a determination is made of whether or not the vehicle's exhaust might exceed emissions levels for the particular pollutants mentioned above.

On-road testing uses state-of-the-art technology to test the exhaust plumes of vehicles as they drive by carefully selected and specially configured sites.

The Official Notice

Owners whose vehicles are identified as potential "high emitters" are notified and required, by law, to make every reasonable effort to bring their vehicle into compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

The Clock is Ticking!

From the date of receipt of the "High Emitter Notice," a registered owner has 30 days to bring the vehicle into compliance with the NAAQS. This means the vehicle must be presented for a verification test, have any necessary repairs performed and then pass a re-test before the end of the 30th day.

Because of the complexity of emissions-related vehicle malfunctions, the Department strongly encourages registered vehicle owners to have the initial verification test done as soon as possible after receiving the official notice. By doing so, the owner will know the emissions status of the vehicle and will have as much time as possible to plan a course of action to bring the vehicle into compliance.

Where to Get a Verification Test

Most Official Vehicle Inspection stations in the fifteen (15) affected counties of Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant; and, the two (2) EAC counties of Travis and Williamson, are certified to do emissions testing. Currently there are almost 4,000 such stations in these seventeen (17) counties.

Getting Your Vehicle Repaired

Recognizing that emissions control and engine performance can be the most challenging areas of automotive repair, a "Recognized Emissions Repair Facility of Texas" program was developed to assist citizens in identifying vehicle emissions repair shops in their area.

If your vehicle fails the initial verification test, please visit www.airchecktexas.com to locate a Recognized Emissions Repair Facility in your area. You may choose one of these facilities, another repair facility, or perform the repairs yourself. However, if your vehicle fails the re-test and you choose to apply for a low-mileage or an individual vehicle waiver, where you have the repairs performed

will have a bearing on how much of the emissions-related repairs can be applied toward the waiver.

If you choose a Recognized Emissions Repair Facility of Texas to repair your vehicle, all diagnostic, parts and labor costs associated with the emissions-related repairs go toward the waiver requirement. If you choose an independent, non-recognized facility or perform the emissions-related repairs yourself, only the cost of the certain emissions-related parts involved in the emissions-related repairs apply to the waiver requirement.

All receipts related to the repairs must be retained and presented to a Department representative when applying for a waiver.

The Cost

The initial verification test fee is \$11.50, if performed in El Paso, Travis and Williamson counties. The verification fee is \$18.50 if performed in the DFW/Houston areas.

If you choose to have your annual safety inspection conducted at the same time the total fee will increase by \$7.00, or, \$18.50 in El Paso, Travis and Williamson counties, \$25.50 if performed in the DFW/Houston areas.

If your vehicle fails the initial verification test, you can get the vehicle repaired and return to the same station within fifteen (15) days and receive a free re-test. Otherwise, you will be subject to an identical inspection fee on the re-test.

The Consequences

Failure to comply with the "High Emitter Notice" is a criminal offense. The first offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$1.00 and not more than \$350.00. Any subsequent offense is a misdemeanor; punishable by a fine of not less than \$200.00 and not more than \$1,000.00.

In addition to criminal penalties, failure to comply with the official notice may result in the State denying future registration of the offending vehicle until it passes an emissions test or otherwise complies with the program.

Assistance and Answers

If your vehicle fails the initial verification test, the testing facility should direct you to www.airchecktexas.com, which is very informative and discusses, in greater detail, the recognized repair program and the waiver and time extension provisions.

In addition to the valuable information provided by the testing facility, the Department has established an information line to respond to your questions, comments, and concerns about this program.

**On-Road Testing Program
512-424-7293**

Clean Air in Texas!

The overall design of the Texas On-Road Vehicle Emissions Testing Program is directed at providing cleaner air for the citizens of the State of Texas. A properly maintained vehicle also means better fuel economy and fewer mechanical problems. Through your cooperation and the AirCheckTexas Program, we will all breathe a little easier!