

In addition to general engine and fuel system repairs/replacements such as an overhaul, valve work and fuel injector and carburetor repairs, the following apply to waivers:

Air Filter	Oxygen Sensor	Catalytic Converter	Points
Pre-Heat Catalyst	Thermal Reactor	EGR Valve	Spark Plugs
EGR Hoses	EGR Sensor	PCV Air Pump	Coil
PCV Check Valve	Distributor	Ignition Wires	

Plus, the cost of labor performed by a CERT or CMRT and any gaskets, clamps, brackets or other emission accessories directly associated with these components may be applied to the waiver.

### **SECTION 3 - On Board Diagnostics (OBD II) / Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL) Test**

#### ***What is OBD II?***

On Board Diagnostics is a complex computer system installed on 1996 and newer cars and light trucks. The system acts to provide an early warning of potentially high emissions and probable damage to the vehicle.

#### ***Which vehicles will DMV test?***

DMV will test 1996 and newer cars registered in New Castle County and Kent County that have a MGWR of less than 8500 pounds. In addition, 1997 and newer diesel vehicles will be tested.

#### ***What does the DMV Inspection check?***

There are two steps to the inspection. (1) With the key on and the engine off, the technician determines if the "check engine light" (MIL) works. (2) The technician will connect the inspection tool to the OBD II system to determine its status.

#### ***My car did not pass the OBD II test. What should I do?***

This depends on WHY your vehicle failed. You should probably take the vehicle to a repair technician for service. If the MIL is on, the OBD II system found a problem that needs repair, or if the MIL does not light up, the need for repair or replacement of the appropriate circuitry is necessary.

**GIVE YOUR VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT TO THE REPAIR TECHNICIAN - IT CONTAINS VALUABLE INFORMATION ON YOUR VEHICLE'S PROBLEM.**

#### ***Is there a grace period?***

Vehicle owners may be eligible for one 30-day temporary tag. There is a \$10 fee for the tag. The Registration Section of any DMV facility can provide the tag.

#### ***Is there a waiver policy?***

Currently, an OBD II waiver policy exists. To qualify, the owner must spend a fixed amount on emissions-related repairs. This amount changes each year. The current amount needed to qualify for the waiver is found on the Certified Emissions Repair Technician List. A Certified Emissions Repair Technician (CERT) or a Certified Manufacturer Repair Technician (CMRT) MUST perform these repairs. The repair technician must stamp all related receipts. The vehicle owner must present a COMPLETED VEHICLE EMISSION REPAIR REPORT FORM with the stamped receipts to DMV. Vehicle repair receipts older than 90 days are not acceptable.

### **SECTION 4 - Pressure Test**

#### ***What is inspected during the pressure test?***

The DMV technician tests your vehicle's fuel system to detect any leakage of fuel or vapors from the fuel system or fuel cap. To test for leaks, the hose leading from the evaporative canister to the fuel tank is clamped shut and a small amount of pressure is applied to the tank itself. The system is then monitored for leakage. The fuel cap is tested separately to ensure that it is properly functioning. If your vehicle was originally equipped with a catalytic converter, the DMV officer performs a visual inspection for its presence.

#### ***Why did my car fail?***

Failure to pass the pressure test indicates a leakage of fuel or vapors from the fuel system. The DMV technician provided you with a VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT which indicates whether the problem is with the fuel tank and canister hose or the fuel cap.

**Catalytic Converter Check** - Failure of this test indicates that:

- the catalytic converter is in poor condition, or
- the catalytic converter is missing (violation of federal law).

#### ***How do I make repairs?***

Depending on the origin of the leakage, you may be able to make the repairs yourself. In most instances, problems with the fuel cap simply require the vehicle owner to replace the cap with a new one designed for the vehicle.

**Warning: Improper repairs to a vehicle's fuel system can result in a fire or explosion. Also, the federal EPA has developed a series of guidelines and procedures that must be followed when replacing or installing a catalytic converter.** Please consult a qualified mechanic of your choice and provide the mechanic with the VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT and VEHICLE EMISSION REPAIR REPORT FORM.

#### ***Is there a waiver policy or grace period?***

**There are no waivers for fuel system failures; however, vehicle owners may be eligible for one 30-day temporary tag. Temporary tags are issued in the Registration Section of each DMV facility for a fee of \$10.**

STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

# Vehicle Inspection Program Brochure



*This brochure contains information on Delaware's vehicle inspection program. It is designed to provide guidance on inspection failures, waivers, temporary license plates and repairs required to ensure your vehicle can be operated safely.*

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## First Class Service from the First State

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## Understanding Our Vehicle Inspection Program:

As part of the State of Delaware's process for renewing your registration, your vehicle must pass a vehicle inspection. By performing an inspection, the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) helps to ensure your vehicle safety and protect the air Delawareans breathe by reducing the amount of pollutants in the environment.

Your vehicle failed to pass one or more parts of the inspection process. To help you understand the inspection process, DMV is providing this detailed explanation. Please refer to the appropriate section:

### Section 1 - Safety Test

### Section 2 - Tailpipe Emissions Test

### Section 3 - OBD/MIL Test

### Section 4 - Pressure Test

After completing the necessary repairs, please return to an inspection facility recheck lane for re-inspection. There is no charge for your vehicle to be re-inspected; however, it is important that you renew your registration prior to its expiration date. A \$10 late fee is charged for renewing after the registration's expiration date. It is also important that you maintain the VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT provided to you by the technician; it contains the results of your first inspection.

If you have additional questions, please contact the appropriate DMV facility:

#### Greater Wilmington

2230 Hessler Blvd.  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Telephone 434-3206

#### New Castle

Airport & Churchman's Rd.  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Telephone 326-5004

#### Dover

303 Transportation Circle  
P.O. Box 698  
Dover, DE 19903  
Telephone 744-2514

#### Georgetown

23737 DuPont Blvd.  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
Telephone 853-1003

**Hours at all Offices:** 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; Noon - 8:00 p.m. Wednesday

## SECTION 1 - Safety Exam

### What is inspected during the safety exam?

The exam is performed to ensure that your vehicle's safety equipment is in working condition. During the safety test, the Division will check the following items:

- Tires
- Glass (no cracks, obstructions or tints)
- Mirrors
- Wipers
- Horn
- License Plate
- Turn signals, license plate lights, brake lights
- Headlights, taillights, parking lights
- Wiring and switches
- Reflectors and lenses
- Height
- Hood and latch, door latches
- Bumpers
- Fenders
- Body metal
- Shock absorbers
- Brakes
- Exhaust system
- Fuel system
- Smoking

### Why did my vehicle fail?

The technician provided a VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT which shows the part of the safety test your vehicle failed. After completing the necessary repairs, return to the recheck lane to have the repair verified.

### How do I make repairs?

You must have all repairs performed which will permit your vehicle to pass inspection. You may be able to replace the defective part(s) or perform the repair work yourself. Or, you may wish to consult a State Certified Repair Technician (CERT) or a repair technician of your choice for assistance.

### Is there a waiver policy or grace period?

There are no waivers for safety-related items. **Vehicle owners may be eligible for one 30-day temporary tag or a 15-day temporary permit.** Temporary tags are not issued on failures for tires, brakes, exhaust system, smoking, or any item that may impact the vehicle's safe operation. **Temporary tags and permits are issued in the Registration Section of each DMV facility for a fee of \$10.**

## SECTION 2 - Tailpipe Emissions Test

### What is inspected during the tailpipe emissions test?

The purpose of the tailpipe emissions test is to determine how efficiently your vehicle's engine is performing. The test measures the levels of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide emitted from the exhaust system. 1981-1995 model year vehicles registered in New Castle or Kent County shall receive a two-speed test (low and high rpm in park or neutral), while 1968-1980 model years are tested at idle, as are vehicles registered in Sussex County.

### Why did my vehicle fail?

Failure to pass the tailpipe emissions test is due to high HYDROCARBONS (HC) or high CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) emissions. Improper HC and CO levels are caused by engine malfunctions or a defective or missing catalytic converter. Some likely causes are:

#### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Failure -

Idle air/fuel mixture too rich	Defective catalytic converter	Improper idle speed
Dirty air filter(s)	Heat riser	Improper choke operation
Other air/fuel problems, equipment or engine malfunctions		PCV valve

#### Hydrocarbon (HC) Failure -

Idle air/fuel mixture too lean	Defective catalytic converter	Vacuum leaks
Improper ignition timing	Defective spark plug(s)	PCV Valve
Defective spark plug wire	Defective ignition	EGR Valve
Internal engine problems or other engine malfunctions		Air Pump

### How do I make repairs?

You may be able to make the adjustments and perform the repair work yourself. For example, there is a decal located in the engine compartment which contains the manufacturer's tune-up specifications and emission control device locations and connections.

Should you decide to take your vehicle to a repair shop, be sure to provide the mechanic with the VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT. It will help the mechanic determine what caused your vehicle to fail. Also bring the VEHICLE EMISSIONS REPAIR REPORT FORM. **NOTE: Repairs must be performed before your vehicle can receive a second test. Depending on your vehicle's model year and county of registration, repairs may have to be performed by a certified repair technician to qualify for an emissions waiver. See EMISSIONS TEST WAIVER OPTIONS section below.**

### Rechecks:

Owners with vehicles registered in New Castle and Kent Counties must present a completed VEHICLE EMISSIONS REPAIR REPORT FORM to receive a second emissions recheck.

### Is there a grace period?

Vehicle owners may be eligible for one 30-day temporary tag. Temporary tags are issued in the Registration Section of each DMV facility for a fee of \$10. No temporary tags are issued for vehicles failing for "excessive smoking."

### Is there a waiver policy?

There are three options under the Delaware Emissions Testing Waiver Policy for vehicles failing the **tailpipe emissions** portion of the inspection process. It is important that you choose the appropriate option based on your vehicle's model year, mileage and county where it is registered. **NOTE: SAVE YOUR EMISSIONS TEST RESULTS SHEET.** It must be presented at the inspection lane prior to an emission recheck.

## TAILPIPE EMISSIONS TEST WAIVER OPTIONS:

**NOTE: Some manufacturers have provided extended warranty coverage on certain emission components up to eight (8) years and 80,000 miles. Check your warranty coverage prior to having your vehicle repaired.**

**OPTION 1** - Applies to all model years between 1968 and 1980. To be eligible for a waiver, you must spend at least \$75 on emission-related repairs. Repair receipts older than 90 days are not acceptable.

**OPTION 2** - Applies to models 1981 or newer registered in Sussex County which are greater than five years old, or have greater than 50,000 miles, but were built during or after 1981. To qualify for this waiver, you must spend at least \$200 on emission-related repairs. Receipts older than 90 days are not acceptable.

**OPTION 3** - Applies to models 1981 or newer registered in New Castle and Kent Counties which are greater than five years old or have greater than 50,000 miles. To qualify for this waiver, you must 1) spend a fixed amount on emissions-related repairs. This amount changes each year. The current amount needed to qualify for the waiver is found on the Certified Emissions Repair Technician List.2) have the repairs performed by a State Certified Repair Technician (CERT) or a Certified Manufacturer Repair Technician (CMRT); and 3) present a completed VEHICLE EMISSIONS REPAIR REPORT FORM. Repairs to the primary emission control components performed by owners will apply to the waiver limit.

**NO LABOR IS ALLOWED FOR OWNER PERFORMED REPAIRS. CERT OR CMRT MUST INSPECT ALL OWNER-INSTALLED, EMISSION-RELATED REPAIR PARTS AND STAMP ANY RECEIPTS PRIOR TO THE VEHICLE OWNER APPLYING FOR AN EMISSIONS WAIVER.**

The cost to repair or replace the following items qualifies as emission-related repairs. Written receipts and a completed VEHICLE EMISSIONS REPAIR REPORT FORM must be provided to show that you spent the appropriate amount of money within 90 days from the original date of inspection.