

New ways to improve air quality all across Texas.

Those who live in Texas' biggest cities are probably well aware of the increase in traffic and the resulting air pollution problems.

In fact, the Houston/Galveston and Dallas/Fort Worth areas have been designated as "non-attainment" areas—meaning we're not meeting the Environmental Protection Agency's air-quality standards. But like Texans always do, we're rising to the challenge.

What to do if your vehicle fails the emissions test.



STEP 1

The Vehicle Inspection Report

If your vehicle fails the ASM2 test, you will receive a Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) detailing which tailpipe emissions exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

If your vehicle fails the OBDII test, you will receive the VIR, plus diagnostic trouble codes (DTC) that your service technician can use to make repairs easier.

STEP 2

The Repairs

Fix the items that failed the inspection or take your vehicle to a qualified service technician for the appropriate repairs.

STEP 3

The Retest

Take your vehicle to the **same** inspection station **within 15 days** for a **free** retest.

Some Reasons Why Your Vehicle Might Fail the OBDII Test (1996 & newer)

The OBDII system test determines whether there is a malfunction or deterioration of up to 175 emission-control devices. The systems monitored by OBDII:

- Catalytic converter
- Fuel delivery
- Secondary air
- Misfire
- Evaporative emissions control

- Oxygen sensor
- Exhaust gas recirculation (EGR)
- Continuous monitoring of the power control module

Some Reasons Why Your Vehicle Might Fail the ASM test (1995 & older)

Excessive Hydrocarbons (HC)

These emissions result from unburned fuel. Check for problems with the following:

- Internal engine trouble
- Faulty air pump
- Ignition system
- Exhaust gas recirculation system (EGR)
- Catalytic converter
- Gas cap

Excessive Carbon Monoxide (CO)

High amounts of carbon monoxide occur in a rich fuel mixture when there is too much or too little air reaching the combustion chamber. Check for problems with the following:

- Mis-adjusted carburetor
- Faulty fuel-injection system
- Dirty air filter
- Worn rings or valve guides
- Air pump system

Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx):

High levels of NOx can be caused by excessive temperature in the combustion chamber or a damaged catalytic converter. Check for problems with the following:

- Air injection system
- EGR system
- Combustion chamber deposits

Extensions and Waivers

If you meet certain criteria, you may be granted additional time to bring your vehicle into compliance, or your emissions test may be waived. There are four types of extensions or waivers administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety:

Low-Income Time Extension

If your vehicle failed the emissions test and your annual income is below the national poverty level, you may be granted a one-year extension. However, a second extension is not available after the first expires.

Parts Availability Time Extension

If your vehicle failed the emissions test and the repair part is not reasonably available, you may be issued an extension for either 30-, 60- or 90-days, after which your vehicle must pass the emissions test.

Low Mileage Waiver

This waiver applies when the vehicle has been driven less than 5,000 miles since the last inspection, at least \$100.00 in emissions-related repairs have been performed, and the vehicle is still unable to pass the emissions test.

Individual Vehicle Waiver

This waiver is available only after every reasonable measure has been taken to repair the vehicle to comply with test standards, and no other waiver is available. This waiver is granted only when the DPS believes doing so will not significantly affect air quality.

If you believe you meet the criteria for one of the time extensions or waivers, contact the DPS Waiver Stations in your area:

Harris County Waiver Station: (281) 272-1150

Dallas/Tarrant County Waiver Station: (972) 251-2404