WISCONSIN VEHICLE INSPECTION PROGRAM

Information on New Testing Requirement for Diesels Beginning January 1, 2010.

With the introduction of OBDII complaint diesel vehicles in model year 2007, the emission inspection program will now test this population of vehicles as part of the regions air quality efforts.

- All 2007 and newer model year diesel vehicles up to 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (gvwr) are now equipped with OBD systems to monitor the functioning of emission control components and alert the vehicle operator to any detected need for emission related repair.
- All 2007 OBD compliant vehicles domiciled in southeastern Wisconsin will be required to pass an emission inspection prior to registration renewal or upon change of ownership.
- The first test cycle for these vehicle will occur for vehicle registrations expiring in calendar year 2010. Vehicle owners will be notified of the testing requirement with their registration renewal notices or at the time they change ownership.

How will diesel vehicles be tested?

The testing requirement and procedure will be identical to gasoline fueled vehicles. The testing elements will be the following:

***Check Engine Light Bulb Test**:* The inspector will perform a test to ensure that the vehicle's check engine light is functioning properly. This is accomplished by turning on the ignition key to the on position without starting the engine. The vehicle would fail this portion of the inspection if the check engine light does not illuminate.

Communications: The inspector will connect the testing equipment to the vehicle's onboard computer port (Diagnostic Link Connector). If the vehicle cannot communicate with the testing equipment, the vehicle will be rejected from further testing until this condition is corrected.

Readiness Monitors: If the testing equipment can communicate with the vehicle computer, then the OBD test can proceed. The testing equipment evaluates the readiness status of on-board system monitors. If the vehicle has more than 1 unset readiness monitor, it will be rejected from further testing until this condition is corrected.

Check Engine Light Commanded On: If the vehicle's check engine light is commanded on due to an emission component that is not functioning properly, then the Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTC) are recorded and provided to the motorist. The vehicle will fail this portion of the inspection if the check engine light is commanded on. The vehicle will need to be repaired and brought back for retesting.

Where will diesel vehicles be tested?

The vehicles will be tested at the current emission inspection facilities.

Will there be special lanes and equipment to perform diesel tests?

No. The current testing equipment will be able to perform emission inspections on diesel fuelled vehicles. Each station has a high-bay door for larger vans and trucks.

What happens if a vehicle fails?

The vehicle will need to be repaired and brought back for a retest. In order to complete the registration process, the vehicle will need to pass the inspection.

With OBDII compliant vehicles, the vehicle's OBD system monitors the function of emission control components. It alerts the vehicle operator to any detected need for emission related repair through an illuminated check engine light. In addition, when a malfunction occurs, diagnostic information will be stored in the engine's computer to assist in the diagnosis and repair of the malfunction. The Vehicle Inspection Program also has a Technical Assistance Hotline and facilities to assist motorists and repair technicians identify causes of test failures.

Are warranties provided for diesel powered vehicles different than for gasoline powered vehicles?

Yes, but they vary considerably between vehicle makes. Consumers should check their owner's manual to determine what warranty coverage they were provided by the manufacturer.

Diesel Exhaust & Your Health

Emissions from diesel-powered engines contain oxides of nitrogen (NOx), particulate matter and air toxics.

- NOx is one of the main ingredients involved in the formation of ground-level ozone, which can trigger serious air pollution problems. In Wisconsin, over one third of NOx emissions come from mobile diesel-powered engines.
- Diesel exhaust contains tiny particles know as fine particulate matter. These tiny or "fine" particles are so small that several thousand of them could fit into the period at the end of this sentence. Diesel engines are now one of the largest sources of fine particulate matter.
- Fine particles in the air are a serious public health problem. They pose a significant health risk because they can pass through the nose and throat and become lodged in the lungs. Fine particles can cause lung damage and premature death. They can also aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.
- Diesel emissions also contain air toxics, a class of pollutants that cause negative health impacts including cancer and non-cancer effects. The USEPA has concluded that diesel exhaust is likely to be carcinogenic to humans at occupational and environmental (ambient) levels of exposures. Diesel exhaust contains air toxics that are known carcinogens. In addition to benzene, diesel exhaust contains formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, 1,3-butadiene, acrolein and dioxin.

For More Information Regarding This New Testing Requirement

General Information	**Technical Assistance**
414-266-1080 or 800-242-7510	414-358-3905 or 1-800-335-5088