

Dealer Compliance

State Emission Requirements



Reduce stress, improve customer satisfaction and avoid possible enforcement actions by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD): For 2009, all 1985-2006 model year gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks (8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight rating and less) must be sold with a valid, passing emission inspection for residents of metro Atlanta. Vehicles that run exclusively on diesel are exempt from emission testing as well as vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating over 8,500 pounds. The three most recent model year vehicles are exempt from emission testing each year. Additionally, vehicles that are 25 model years or older are exempt from having an emission test.

According to Georgia law, a seller (regardless of location in Georgia) is responsible for selling a vehicle with a valid, passing Georgia Vehicle Emission Inspection Report (VIR) if the buyer will register the vehicle in one of the 13 metro Atlanta counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding or Rockdale.

If a used vehicle does not have a passing VIR at the time of sale (dated within 12 months of the purchase date), the buyer may submit a complaint and request an investigation by Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), which may result in penalties or fines against the dealer by the EPD.

Vehicles sold "as is" are not exempt from the requirement and must be sold with a valid, passing emission inspection.

A copy of the most recent VIR can be downloaded for free via the GCAF Web site, www.cleanairforce.com. Click on the "Motorist" microsite and select "Print a Copy of Your VIR" under "Quick Links." Dealers can print a copy of a VIR by simply entering the VIN.

If you are a licensed used motor vehicle dealer, you may contact the Department of Revenue and request access to the Georgia Registration and Title Information System (GRATIS). Vehicle emission inspection information is contained in the database.

As always, GCAF recommends having a vehicle tested four to six weeks prior to the registration renewal date. For a 1996 or newer model year vehicle, if the "Check Engine" light is on, tighten the fuel cap until it clicks. If the light does not extinguish after completing the drive cycle, then emission-related repairs are likely needed.

