

# PROGRAM INFORMATION KIT

2024



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# FACT SHEET

## OVERVIEW



Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), manages the Enhanced Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, the program has worked to reduce harmful vehicle emissions and help improve metro Atlanta's air quality.

Georgia's I/M Program has prevented tons of ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe by identifying and repairing more than 4.5 million heavy-polluting vehicles.

## BACKGROUND

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) was created in 1996 in response to the air quality requirements in the Clean Air Act. In conjunction with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), GCAF manages the state's Enhanced Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the standards for ambient air quality throughout the United States.

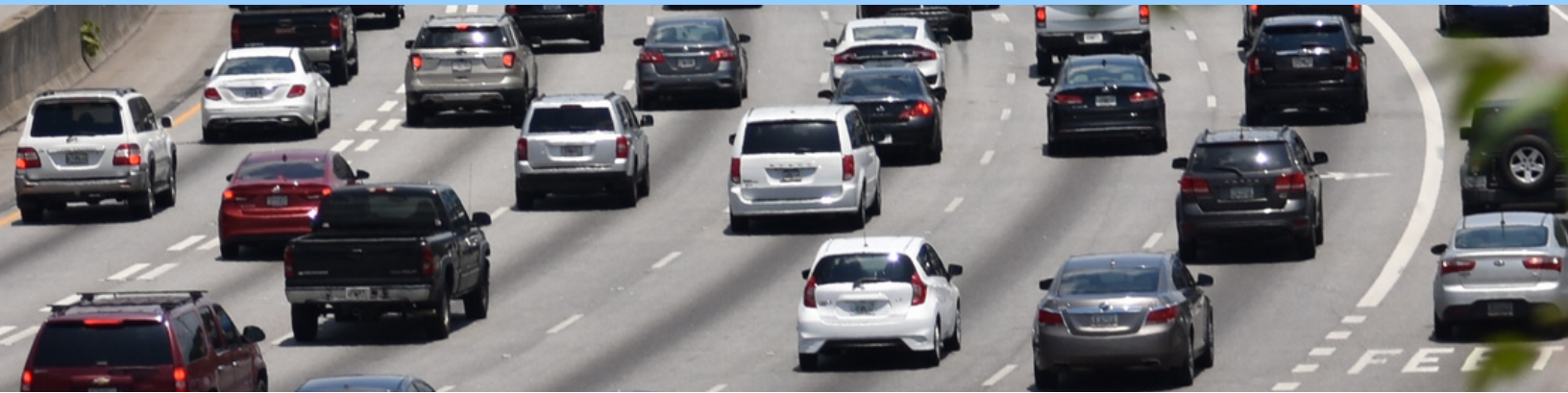
Vehicle emissions are a major contributor to air pollution in metro Atlanta. The health, environmental, and economic impacts of air pollution are significant. GCAF is designed to identify and ultimately repair vehicles that pollute the air, while helping our area work toward maintaining federal clean air standards.

For the 2024 registration period, 2000 – 2021 model year gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks with an 8,500-pound gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or less require an annual emissions test in the following counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale.



For more information, visit [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).

# FACT SHEET



Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) tests approximately three million vehicles a year and offers 700+ testing stations and 800+ testing lanes. Since its inception, the program has identified and repaired more than 4.5 million heavy-polluting vehicles and removed more than 2.2 million tons of harmful pollutants from the air that we breathe. This has had a significant impact on the quality of life for Georgia's residents. In total, 1.88 million tons of carbon monoxide, 163,000 tons of nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), and 106,000 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been removed from the air that Georgians breathe.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Georgia is now "in attainment" for PM 2.5 (particulate matter pollutant levels). This means that the number of fine particle pollutants in outdoor air falls below the federal standard of 12 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>). Significantly, Georgia's 8-hour ozone level measurements have dropped to the 2015 standard of 70 parts ozone per billion parts air (ppb), resulting in Georgia being redesignated to attainment status.

Atlanta's air is cleaner than it has been in years and these dangerous pollutants are at their lowest level in years, thanks in part to Georgia's Enhanced Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program.

GCAF remains committed to the ongoing improvement of metro Atlanta's air quality. We must continue our efforts to maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), as many challenges remain in protecting public health and the environment.

It is our vision to be the world's leader in clean air management, recognizing that local action leads to global impact for this and future generations.

# FACT SHEET



## FOR MOTORISTS

GCAF educates motorists on the importance of the I/M program and emphasizes the health benefits associated with attaining federal air quality standards. In addition to providing information on the emissions testing process and testing facility locations, GCAF also offers health and air quality information on its website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com). Also available are summaries of a vehicle's most recent vehicle inspection reports (VIRs) and the RepairWatch Public Report, which identifies effective emissions repair facilities. The website offers Google Translate in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and Mandarin Chinese. Online collateral materials, including Motorists' Rights posters and Q&A brochures, are available to inform both English and Spanish-speaking motorists about the I/M program. Additional collateral materials are available in Korean, Vietnamese, and Mandarin Chinese.



## FOR MEDIA

If you are a member of the media, please contact Sara Lips, EPD Communications and Community Engagement Director, at (470) 524-0732.



## FOR INSPECTORS

GCAF assists individuals in becoming certified emissions inspectors in Georgia and provides training on inspection procedures and customer service. Assistance is also available for individuals looking to open a testing station. Additionally, inspection station owners and managers can attend Industry Advisory Board (IAB) stakeholder meetings, where I/M program policies and procedures are discussed.



## REPAIR TECHNICIANS

GCAF provides access to emissions program training and related educational opportunities to both prospective and current repair technicians. Repair technicians have access to an online training program, which offers information on customer service and aims to reduce unnecessary repairs and related costs for motorists. Information on GCAF's Recognized Repair Technician Training program can be found on the GCAF website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) under the [Repair Industry](#) tab.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

## TESTING TESTING

### **Why must vehicles be tested every year?**

Vehicles are inspected annually to identify heavy polluters and have them repaired to reduce pollution in metro Atlanta. Reducing pollution from mobile sources helps metro Atlanta maintain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) required under the Federal Clean Air Act. Even though newer model-year vehicles likely run cleaner than older models, annual testing promotes ongoing vehicle maintenance, ultimately helping all model-year vehicles to run efficiently and to reduce air pollution.

### **Is an emissions inspection required for a 2024 vehicle?**

No. For 2024 registration, only 2000 – 2021 vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8,500 pounds or less are required to have a passing inspection or Repair Waiver. The three most recent model year vehicles are exempt from emissions testing.

### **I own a hybrid vehicle; does it require an emissions inspection?**

Vehicles powered only by diesel fuel or that run exclusively on alternative fuel (natural gas, propane, etc.) are exempt from having an emissions inspection. Dual-fuel vehicles must be inspected if one of the fuels burned is gasoline.

### **Are motorcycles required to have an emissions inspection?**

No, motorcycles are not required to have an emissions inspection.

### **Are recreational vehicles (RVs) required to have an emissions inspection?**

No. Recreational vehicles (RVs) are not required to have an emissions inspection if the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) is over 8,500 pounds.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

**My vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) is over 8,500 pounds. Does it require an emissions inspection?**

No. Vehicles over 8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) are exempt from emissions testing. The GVWR can usually be found on the doorjamb label.

**I recently had my vehicle tested in another state. Will that inspection be valid for registration in Georgia?**

No. You will need to have your vehicle's emissions inspected in Georgia because the requirements in other states may be different than those in Georgia.

**I went to a different station for my free retest and the station charged me for the inspection. Can I get a refund?**

No. Emissions inspection stations other than the one where the first test was performed may provide the retest at no charge, but are not required to do so. The free retest is only valid at the original inspection station for 30 calendar days. The 30 days includes the day of the first inspection and expires at the time of day of the original test. Emissions inspection stations are independently owned and operated; therefore, Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) does not have the authority or ability to issue refunds.

**I went to have my vehicle retested and the station said the free retest expired. What should I do?**

The free retest is valid for 30 calendar days, including the day and time of the first inspection. To be valid, the free retest must be used at the original inspection station. If the free retest has expired, you will be required to pay for the next inspection.

**I bought a car in the last 12 months. Do I need another inspection performed?**

A vehicle inspection report (VIR) is valid for 12 months or one registration renewal by the same owner. Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) recommends that you check with your tag office on registration renewal requirements.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

## **How can I view my most recent test result?**

If you are renewing your registration, the tag office does not require a hard copy of the vehicle inspection report (VIR). The most recent inspection is in the tag offices' database and is associated with the vehicle identification number (VIN). If you would like a summary of your most recent vehicle inspection reports (VIRs) or if you intend to sell the vehicle, you may visit [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) to [view the most recent test results](#). Additionally, you may acquire a copy of your VIRs at any GCAF Service Center or by submitting a request to [info@cleanairforce.com](mailto:info@cleanairforce.com).

## **I purchased a used vehicle from an individual or dealer located in an emissions testing county. Was the seller required to sell the vehicle with a passing inspection?**

Yes. According to Georgia law, the seller (if located within the 13 metro Atlanta counties) is responsible for selling a vehicle with a current valid vehicle inspection report (VIR) if the buyer is going to register the vehicle in one of the 13 metro Atlanta counties. If you would like to file a complaint about the seller, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) and [download the Used Vehicle Sale Complaint Form](#). A representative will contact you via mail or email once the case has been reviewed.

## **I need to obtain information about the emissions testing program in a foreign language.**

Information on emissions testing can be found in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and Mandarin Chinese translations on the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) under Quick Links: [Foreign Language Assistance](#).



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

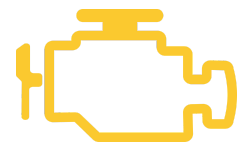
## RETESTS & REPAIRS FAILURES

### Where do I go for repairs?

You should check to see if your vehicle is covered by a manufacturer's emissions control warranty. If the vehicle is under warranty, take it to an authorized dealer. If the vehicle is not under warranty, you should find a qualified emissions repair shop to make the necessary repairs. You should seek a repair facility for assistance and are encouraged to view the *Repair Watch* Public Report to find an emissions repair shop in your area. The report can be found at any inspection station or on the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) under Quick Links: [Forms and Program Info](#).

GCAF recommends that you obtain an estimate for any work before authorizing your repair technician to proceed. Also, you should make sure your mechanic completes the Emission Repair Form you received when your vehicle failed. The completed Emission Repair Form and failing vehicle inspection report (VIR) are required when the vehicle is retested (a free retest is valid for 30 calendar days, including the date and time of the first inspection).

### My vehicle is failing for the "Check Engine" light; what should I do?



The "Check Engine" light may illuminate to indicate something as minor as a loose fuel cap or as major as an emissions control component failure. The vehicle inspection report (VIR) will list up to the first five diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs) indicating the reason the "Check Engine" light is on.

If a DTC listed on the VIR indicates a fault with the vehicle's "evaporative system," you should tighten the fuel cap until it clicks and drive the vehicle for a few days to see if the on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer turns off the "Check Engine" light. A transmission code that turns on the "Check Engine" light is directly related to the vehicle's emissions. A vehicle's on-board computer will illuminate the "Check Engine" light if a problem with the transmission is detected. A diagnostic analysis will help identify the transmission component(s) needing repair. If the "Check Engine" light is flashing, the vehicle should be serviced immediately to avoid costly damage to the vehicle's main emissions control component – the catalytic converter.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

## **My vehicle failed for non-communication; what should I do?**

If the vehicle inspection report (VIR) indicates the data link connector (DLC) is blocked, missing, or broken, the condition will need to be corrected. You should check all wires and fuses. All wires on any after-market system should be checked (ex.: CD player, radio, security, navigation system, satellite radio, etc.). If a wire is interfering with the battery or on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer, it could disrupt the connection to the OBD computer. In addition, you should research recalls, technical service bulletins (TSBs), and manufacturer-extended warranties regarding the vehicle's emissions control system. Finally, a diagnostic analysis should be performed with an OBD generic scan tool. Make sure the scan tool is connected to the data link connector (DLC) under the dash, not under the hood.

If a mechanic is able to communicate with an OBD generic scan tool, contact Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) at [info@cleanairforce.com](mailto:info@cleanairforce.com) or call the GCAF Call Center at 800.449.2471 for further assistance. You will be required to provide documentation from your mechanic stating that all the components listed above have been checked.

## **My vehicle is failing for readiness; what should I do?**

If your vehicle is failing for readiness, Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) recommends the vehicle be driven for one to two weeks under normal driving conditions, including some highway driving. You may be able to obtain a copy of your vehicle's "drive cycle" from your vehicle manufacturer or other source. You may also find information regarding your vehicle's "drive cycle" in the owner's manual.

If your vehicle is having difficulty becoming "Ready," check all wires, fuses, and the thermostat. All wires on any installed after-market system should be checked (ex.: CD player, radio, security, navigation system, satellite radio, etc.). In addition, you should research recalls, technical service bulletins (TSBs), and manufacturer extended warranties regarding the vehicle's emissions control system. Finally, a diagnostic analysis should be performed with an on-board diagnostic (OBD) generic scan tool, making sure the scan tool is connected to the data link connector (DLC) under the dash, not under the hood.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

## **My vehicle failed for HC; what should I do?**

Hydrocarbon (HC) is unburned fuel caused by poor ignition timing or improper fuel mixture.

Possible causes of excessive HC include:

- Faulty spark plugs and plug wires
- Faulty oxygen sensor(s)
- Faulty mass air flow sensor
- Faulty exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system
- Clogged or leaking fuel injectors or carburetor
- Incorrect ignition timing
- Incorrect timing

You should seek a repair facility for assistance. You are encouraged to view the *RepairWatch* Public Report to find a qualified emissions repair shop in your area. The report can be found at any inspection station or on the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website.

## **My vehicle failed for CO; what should I do?**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that is formed by insufficient airflow or improper fuel mixture. Possible causes of excessive CO include:

- Faulty oxygen sensor(s)
- Faulty mass air flow sensor
- Faulty positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) valve
- Clogged air filter
- Incorrect ignition timing
- Faulty fuel pressure
- Dirty fuel injection/carburetor
- Vacuum leak
- Exhaust leak

You should seek a qualified repair facility for assistance and are encouraged to review the *RepairWatch* Public Report to find a qualified emissions repair shop in your area. The report can be found at any inspection station or on the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

## EXEMPTIONS & EXTENSIONS WAIVERS

### **How can I obtain a Senior Exemption Application?**

Senior Exemption Applications are available online from the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) under the Motorist tab or can be obtained at any GCAF Service Center. You can also apply for the Senior Exemption at select tag offices. If you would like the application mailed to you, please e-mail GCAF at [waivers@cleanairforce.com](mailto:waivers@cleanairforce.com).

Seniors who have received exemptions in the past may be able to renew their exemption by calling the GCAF Call Center at 800.449.2471. The current mileage must be supplied when calling.

### **What qualifies a person for a Senior Exemption?**

- The applicant (primary registered vehicle owner) must be at least 65 years of age.
- The vehicle has not been driven more than 5,000 miles per year. The odometer must be functional in order to demonstrate the "under 5,000 miles/year" requirement.
- The vehicle is at least 10 model years old or older. For 2024, this includes all 2014 and older model-year vehicles.

### **How can I obtain an Out-of-Area Extension Application?**

You may qualify for an Out-of-Area Extension if you (or the driver) and your Georgia registered vehicle are temporarily located well outside of the 13-county emissions testing area of the state of Georgia due to school, military or business obligations. A vehicle can be inspected well in advance if the owner anticipates being out of the area near the time registration is due. If an Out-of-Area Extension is granted, the vehicle must be inspected immediately upon return to the area.

*(continued)*

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

The Out-Of-Area Extension Application is available online via the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) under the [Motorist tab](#). Many tag offices offer waiver services. GCAF encourages you to contact your local tag office for further details.

## **How do I apply for a Repair Waiver?**

Motorists may make multiple repairs and retest attempts over a period of months. However, please note that the Repair Waiver application must be dated within 60 days of any failed test (the failed test cannot be more than one-year-old, nor can it be associated with a previous Repair Waiver or registration renewal).

To apply for a Repair Waiver, all the following criteria must be met:

- The vehicle did not pass the first inspection and the after-repairs inspection.
- The first inspection is no more than one year old (12 months).
- The first inspection is not associated with a previous Repair Waiver or registration renewal.
- The most recent after-repairs inspection shows the vehicle passing all areas passed during the initial inspection.
- The most recent after-repairs inspection shows some improvement in all areas the vehicle did not pass during the initial inspection.

The vehicle received emissions-related repairs that met or exceeded the Repair Waiver limit amount ([see amount](#)).

## About Emissions-Related Repairs:

- Emissions-related repair receipts from each emissions-related repair attempt can be considered toward a Repair Waiver as long as each receipt is dated within 60 days of the corresponding failed emissions test.
- Emissions-related repairs can be performed up to 60 days prior to the initial inspection.
- Emissions-related repair receipts must be itemized and identifiable.
- Emissions-related repair receipts must identify the vehicle (VIN, year, make and model, or tag number).
- Emissions-related repair receipts must be from a repair facility possessing a valid business license. If required, the repair facility's business license must be obtainable.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Labor costs from a company not possessing a business license will not count toward the Repair Waiver limit amount. If emissions-related repairs are performed by the owner, only the cost for parts will be considered toward the Repair Waiver limit amount.

The following items will not count toward the Repair Waiver limit amount: emissions inspection fees, surcharges, taxes, warranty work, gas, disposal fees, shop supplies, and miscellaneous items. Please note that this is not a complete list.

A Repair Waiver can be obtained and submitted in person at any Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) Service Center. After GCAF determines your application is complete and the supporting documents meet the requirements, your application will be conditionally approved. For the application to receive final approval, the vehicle must be presented to one of our GCAF Customer Service Centers for a visual inspection. Additional information on the Repair Waiver process can be found on the GCAF website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) under the Motorist tab.

## **What are the hours of operation for GCAF's Customer Service Centers?**

The hours of operation and driving directions to all GCAF service centers are listed on the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website under Find A Customer Service Center.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

## OPENING A STATION

### **How may I obtain information on opening a testing station?**

Details on how to open new testing station are available on the Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF) website at [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) under the Stations tab.

View the Station Owner Presentation from the GCAF website for complete information regarding the station start-up and close-out processes and the responsibilities of station ownership. Viewing this presentation is mandatory for station certification. If you have any questions, please contact us at [industry@cleanairforce.com](mailto:industry@cleanairforce.com).

# CONTACTS

## **For Media Inquiries:**

### **Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)**

Sara Lips

Communications and Community Engagement Director

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(470) 524-0732

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Media Relations Counsel

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Press information can be found at [www.cleanairforce.com/common/press](http://www.cleanairforce.com/common/press).



# RESOURCES



## PROGRAM WEBSITE

[www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) | [See program resources.](#)



## SOCIAL MEDIA



[Facebook.com/GeorgiasCleanAirForce](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiasCleanAirForce)



[CleanAirForce.com/c/YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/c/CleanAirForce)



[Instagram.com/GeorgiasCleanAirForce](https://www.instagram.com/GeorgiasCleanAirForce)



[Twitter.com/GACleanAirForce](https://twitter.com/GACleanAirForce)



## HOTLINE

800.449.2471



## LIVE CHAT

[www.cleanairforce.com/contact-us](http://www.cleanairforce.com/contact-us)

# RESOURCES



## COLLATERAL

### Testing Information

[2024 Registration Renewal Insert](#)

[2024 Who Gets Tested When?](#)

### Retest & Repair Information

[2024 Q&A Brochure](#)

### Foreign Language Materials

#### español | Spanish

[2024 Spanish Registration Renewal Insert](#)

Información importante sobre la inspección de emisiones de su vehículo

[2024 Q&A Brochure in Spanish](#)

Preguntas y Respuestas Folleto

#### Tiếng Việt | Vietnamese

[2024 Vietnamese Registration Renewal Insert](#)

Thông tin quan trọng về việc kiểm tra khí thải của bạn

#### 한국어 | Korean

[2024 Korean Registration Renewal Insert](#)

년 자동차 매연(배기가스)검사에 관한 중요한 정보입니다

#### 中国普通话 | Mandarin Chinese

[2024 Registration Renewal Insert in Mandarin Chinese](#)

年排放检验的重要信息

