



**Subject: Requirements for the Phase V Equipment Upgrade**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is working with equipment vendors, which supply the Georgia Analyzer Systems (GAS) equipment to the emissions testing program, to implement what is known as the Phase V Upgrade. This is the first required upgrade since Phase IV was implemented in 2008. The Georgia emissions testing program must implement changes to keep current with advances in vehicle on-board diagnostics and identification standards, telecommunications standards, and inspector identification capabilities.

**DATA TRANSMISSION:**

- **New Communications Requirement for stations - Internet-Based Communications:** A transition from the current slow dial-up MODEMs to fast internet-based communications with the Vehicle Inspection Database (VID) will be required. The previously-used MODEM technology dates back to the last century and is being phased out in larger metropolitan areas of the country. This process has already begun in metro Atlanta and is affecting some inspection stations in the local program. To prevent phase-out from occurring to your business and in the GCAF program, all GAS units will be required to communicate using high-speed internet technology. This means that stations will be replacing the current phone line connecting the GAS unit to the VID using an internet connection instead.
- **Six Mb Minimum:** Stations with only one GAS unit will require a minimum-recommended speed of six (6) megabits per second (6Mbs). GCAF recommends that stations with more than one GAS unit should obtain a higher-speed service to ensure a consistent connection with the VID.
- **Static IP Address Required:** The GAS unit must have what is known as a STATIC IP address that will ensure continuation of database integrity.
- **Obtaining Internet Service Provider is Station's Responsibility:** It is the stations' responsibility to obtain an internet service provider that provides the minimum 6 Mbs speed with a static IP address before testing with Phase V equipment. Existing phone modem connections must be maintained until the station's Phase V certification audit has been completed.

## **HARDWARE:**

- **2-D Bar Code Reader:** All GAS units must have a 2-D Bar Code Reader to better ensure accurate data entry of VINs and calibration gas data which comes in bar code form. Bar codes will also be used to quickly identify inspectors and provide a higher level of security for accessing the GAS unit.
- **Biometric Identification Device:** A biometric identification device will positively identify the inspector, while quickly providing him/her access to begin the inspection process.

## **PERSONNEL:**

- **Bar Codes on Badges Will Be Required:** Inspectors will be required to have a bar code on their badges for enhanced security. Over the past year, GCAF has supplied inspectors with bar-coded ID badges. All inspector IDs will be replaced during normal recertification training. Although not required until the entire inspector population has a barcoded ID badge, the barcoded badge will speed up the inspector log-in process.

Communications to the inspection industry regarding Phase V will continue through GAS messages, dashboard updates, and information via the Industry Advisory Board. For specific information about the upgrade path for your GAS unit, please contact your equipment vendor.

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~ GCAF and EPD require that you print, read, and store all GAS messages in a binder on or near the analyzer. GCAF and EPD also recommend that you print a second copy of these messages and post them in a prominent location for your employees to read. To retrieve and print a previous GAS message, go to the GAS message retrieval function in your analyzer and select the appropriate message to print (the analyzer holds up to 500 messages). ~