Your Resource
for Georgia’s Vehicle Emissions Inspection & Maintenance (I/M) Program.

My 1995 or Older Model Year Vehicle Failed the Emissions Inspection

What Should I Do Now?

If a 1995 and older model year vehicle fails for a faulty gas cap or excessive nitrogen oxides (NOx), hydrocarbon (HC), and/or carbon monoxide (CO), it must be repaired. Faulty gas caps should be replaced.

Motorists are encouraged to review the RepairWatch Report at any inspection station or online at CleanAirForce.com for a list of recommended repair facilities in their area.

Failure for Excessive NOx

Nitrogen and oxygen naturally co-exist in the atmosphere. At temperatures above 2500 degrees Fahrenheit (which occurs in the combustion chamber), nitrogen and oxygen chemically combine to form NO, NO2, and NO3, also known as NOx, which is a corrosive gas. Possible causes of excessive NOx include:

- Faulty or clogged EGR system and/or EGR valve.
- Faulty or malfunctioning thermostat.
- Old coolant/thermostat.
- Faulty oxygen sensor(s).
- Faulty mass air flow sensor.
- Incorrect ignition timing.
- Incorrect fuel pressure.
- Broken leaky vacuum hose.

Failure for Excessive HC

Hydrocarbon 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 EGR system.
- Clogged or leaking fuel injectors or carburetor.
- Incorrect ignition timing.

Failure for Excessive CO

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

- Faulty oxygen sensor(s).
- Faulty mass air flow sensor.
- Faulty PCV valve.
- Clogged air filter.
- Incorrect ignition timing.
- Faulty fuel pressure.
- Dirty fuel injection/carburetor.

NOTE: Catalytic converters do not cause high emissions. Rather, they attempt to reduce excessive emissions from the engine. Engine component failures should be addressed before the converter is replaced to prevent voiding the converter warranty.

Offers to illegally pass a vehicle should be reported to Georgia’s Clean Air Force.

If your vehicle fails its annual emissions inspection, and you have already paid all related taxes and fees, contact your local county tag office for information about a possible non-renewable 30-day extension on your registration, per OCGA 40-2-20.