



Your Resource

for Georgia's Vehicle Emissions Inspection & Maintenance (I/M) Program

What is "Readiness?"

And How Does it Affect My Emissions Inspection?

Nineteen-ninety six (1996) and newer model year vehicles perform up to 11 system tests, depending on the model year, make and model of the vehicle. These tests are performed by readiness monitors. The readiness monitors continuously or periodically check the emissions control system and its components. If enough monitors have not completed the check of the emissions control system by the time a motorist presents a vehicle for inspection, the vehicle's on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer will not be "Ready" and will fail the inspection. For example, 1996 to 2000 model year vehicles will fail if three or more monitors are "Not Ready," while 2001 and newer model year vehicles will fail if two or more monitors are "Not Ready."

What Causes a Vehicle to be "Not Ready"?

There are several factors that can cause a vehicle's on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer to be "Not Ready."

- Recent vehicle repairs in which the diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs) have been cleared with an OBD II scan tool.
- The battery has recently been replaced or disconnected.
- The vehicle's OBD computer requires a software update.
- A pending problem with the emissions control system that has yet to turn on the "Check Engine" light.
- An improperly installed aftermarket system. Examples include, but are not limited to, a CD player, security system, navigation system, and/or satellite radio.

How Can a Vehicle Become "Ready?"

If a vehicle has recently been repaired or the battery was recently replaced or disconnected:

- Drive the vehicle for one to two weeks under normal driving conditions, including, some highway driving.
- Contact your dealership for your vehicle's specific drive cycle.

Check the following components if the vehicle is still "Not Ready" after completing the above steps:

- The wiring on any installed aftermarket system to ensure there is no interference with the OBD computer or the battery.
- All fuses.
- The vehicle's thermostat; especially the temperature of the coolant/antifreeze.
- Check all recalls, technical service bulletins (TSBs), and extended warranties related to the emissions control system and the OBD computer.
- Have a diagnostic analysis performed with an OBD generic scan tool; connect to the data link connector (DLC) under the dash, not under the hood.

For additional information or to report a problem, contact Georgia's Clean Air Force.

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