



Your Resource

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

Buyer Beware



What to Do Before You Buy a Used Vehicle

- According to Georgia law, sellers of gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks (8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight rating [GVWR] or less) located within the 13-county testing area must sell a vehicle with a current, valid passing Georgia Vehicle Emissions Inspections Report (VIR) if the buyer is going to 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.
- For 2020, this includes all 1996 - 2017 model year vehicles unless one of the following exemptions applies: vehicles that run exclusively on an alternate fuel or diesel; vehicles with a GVWR over 8,500 pounds; the three most recent model year vehicles (2018, 2019, 2020); and vehicles that are 25 model years old or older. Vehicles sold "as is" are not exempt from the requirement and must also be sold with a current, valid passing VIR if the seller and buyer are located within the 13 metro Atlanta counties.
- A VIR is valid for 12 months or one registration renewal, by the same owner. The VIR can be used for initial registration and again for the renewal as long as the VIR is still valid.
- Visit www.cleanairforce.com to view a summary of a vehicle's most recent inspection results. Click on "Test Results" and simply enter the vehicle identification number (VIN).
- Vehicles sold as "parts only" or "salvage" and the title has been appropriately identified as such with the Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, are not subject to the vehicle emissions law, and cannot be driven off the seller's property.
- Buyers are encouraged to ensure the vehicle that they are purchasing has a current, valid passing VIR prior to purchase and to seek resolution with the seller if the newly purchased vehicle does not have a current, valid passing VIR.
- Buyers may submit a complaint for a vehicle being sold without a current, valid passing VIR by completing the Used Vehicle Sale Complaint Form. The form can be obtained by visiting the GCAF website, clicking on the "Motorist" tab and selecting "View Forms and Program Information."
- The Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Sale of Vehicles, section 391-3-20-.18, can be viewed by visiting the GCAF website, clicking on the "Stations and Inspectors" tab, and selecting "Rules and Regulations."