



Your Resource

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

Who Gets Tested When?

Registration For Tag Year 2021

- Vehicles that require testing, or covered vehicles, include 1997 – 2018 model year gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8,500 pounds or less. Exempt vehicles include vehicles over 8,500 GVWR, 2019 and newer model year vehicles, 1996 and older model year vehicles, diesels, motorcycles and RVs.
- An emissions inspection is valid for 12 months or one registration renewal, by the same owner.
- Visit www.cleanairforce.com to view a summary of the most recent results of the vehicle inspection reports (VIRs). Click on "Test Results" and simply enter the vehicle identification number (VIN).
- Covered counties include the following 13 metro Atlanta counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale.
- Newly-purchased vehicle without a valid VIR: If a motorist from a covered county buys a vehicle without a current, valid passing VIR from a seller located within the 13-county testing area, the motorist should first try to resolve the issue directly with the seller. The buyer may [download the "Used Vehicle Sale Complaint Form" from the GCAF website](#). Please note the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is not a consumer advocacy agency and cannot represent the buyer in any legal proceeding.

Things To Remember: Registration Scenarios

- 1. New model year exemptions:** All 2019 and newer model year vehicles are **exempt** from emissions inspections in 2021. This exemption remains in effect in instances of change of ownership.
- 2. Newly-purchased used vehicle registrations:** If a motorist purchases a used vehicle with a current, valid passing VIR, that VIR (from the previous owner) can be used for the initial registration and can be used for the renewal, as long as the test is still valid (must not exceed 12 months). Only the most recent VIR is considered.
- 3. Late renewals for oldest model year vehicles:** If a vehicle was subject to an emissions inspection in 2020 (for example, the oldest model year subject to testing in 2020 was 1996) and the owner is renewing his or her registration late (in 2021), the vehicle must still be inspected.
- 4. Extremely late renewals:** Covered vehicles require an emissions inspection every year. If the vehicle has not been registered for several years and is registering late for the previous year, 2020, but before the motorist's birthday in 2021, the vehicle will need to be tested now for the late renewal and tested again before the renewal for the current year, 2021. If the vehicle has not been registered for several years and is registering for the current year, 2021, the vehicle will only need to be tested once to return it to the regular testing schedule. However, it is the tag office's discretion as to what is required for late registration.

5. How to transport a vehicle from another state without a current, valid registration: If a motorist purchases or inherits a vehicle from another state and the registration has expired, the motorist must either request the seller provide a valid registration or contact the vehicle registration department **in that state** for assistance. The motorist may also contact their Georgia tag office for assistance. **GCAF does not offer waivers for these instances.**

6. Out of Area Extensions: To apply for a student, military or business extension, the motorist must 1) complete the Out-of-Area Extension Application, 2) present documentation to prove the vehicle is out of the area, 3) present documentation to prove the owner/family member is out of the area, and 4) show proof of ownership. The applicant must be temporarily located well-outside the 13-county emission testing area of the state of Georgia. Applications are available via the GCAF website or from any GCAF Service Center. **Vehicles must be tested upon return to the covered area. Vehicles can be tested well in advance if the motorist plans to be out of the area when their registration is due.**

7. Senior Exemptions: To qualify, all of the following criteria must be met: 1) the primary registered vehicle owner must be 65 years old or older, 2) the vehicle must be 10 model years old or older (2011 model year or older), and 3) the vehicle must be driven less than 5,000 miles per year. The odometer must be functional in order to demonstrate the "under 5,000 miles/year" requirement. To apply, seniors must complete the Senior Exemption Application (indicating accurate mileage) at any GCAF Service Center or metro Atlanta tag office and provide the necessary documentation. Seniors who received an exemption the previous year may renew by calling 1.800.449.2471 (current mileage required).

8. Motorist moved to a covered county in Georgia from another state: The vehicle must receive a valid passing Georgia VIR in order to register the vehicle in one of the 13 covered counties. An emissions inspection from another state is not transferable and is not acceptable for Georgia registration.

9. Change of Georgia address: If a motorist moves from a non-covered county to a covered county in Georgia, they must have the vehicle tested prior to the registration date.

10. Repair Waiver: Based on the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Repair Waiver limit amount is **\$949 for 2021.**

11. Alternative fueled vehicles: Vehicles powered by diesel fuel or running exclusively on alternative fuels (natural gas, propane, etc.) are exempt. Dual-fuel vehicles must be inspected if one of the fuels burned is gasoline. Please call the Department of Revenue at 1-855-406-5221 for more information on alternative fueled vehicles.

12. Inquiries regarding waivers: Refer motorists to the GCAF website, their nearest GCAF Service Center, submit an e-mail to waivers@cleanairforce.com or call 1.800.449.2471.