



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, all sellers of gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks (8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight rating [GVWR] or less) located within metro Atlanta's 13-county testing area must sell a vehicle with a current, valid passing vehicle inspection report (VIR) if the buyer plans to register the vehicle in metro Atlanta's 13-county testing area: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding or Rockdale.

For 2022, this includes all 1998 - 2019 model year vehicles unless one of the following exemptions applies: vehicle runs exclusively on an alternate fuel or diesel; vehicle has a GVWR over 8,500 pounds; vehicle is one of the three most recent model year vehicles (2020, 2021, 2022); and vehicle is 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 metro Atlanta's 13-county testing area.

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" with a title 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 purchase 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."