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**Georgia Vehicle Registration and Emissions Inspection How-Tos**  
*For New and Existing Residents of the 13-County Testing Area*

**ATLANTA (March 6, 2023)** – Georgia’s 13-county emissions testing area, comprised of Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties, has experienced significant growth over the last decade and that trend is projected to continue. Those new to the region often have questions about Georgia’s vehicle registration and emissions inspection requirements.

“As longer-term residents can attest, the Atlanta area is a wonderful place to live and work,” said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. “We welcome newcomers and provide this information about emissions inspection and vehicle registration requirements, which may differ from those of previous places of residences.”

**Registering a New Vehicle in Georgia’s 13-County Testing Area**

- In general, a vehicle must be tested and registered within 30 days of moving to one of the 13 covered counties that require an annual emissions inspection.
- A valid Georgia driver’s license or ID is required to register a vehicle in the state.
- To register an out-of-state vehicle in Georgia, visit a county tag office with documents as outlined by the Department of Revenue at <https://dor.georgia.gov/transfer-title-and-license-plate-another-state-or-country>.

**Emissions Inspection Requirements in the 13-County Testing Area**

- An annual emissions inspection is required for all gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks (8500 pounds GVWR or less) with model years between 3 and 25 years old within the 13-county testing area. For 2023, this includes vehicles with model years 1999 - 2020. [See which vehicles do not require an emissions inspection.](#)
- If a vehicle with current Georgia registration is moved from a county that does not require emissions inspection into one that does, it will need to be tested for its next registration renewal.
- Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), the state's emissions testing program, recommends testing your vehicle four to six weeks prior to the registration renewal date (the vehicle owner's birthday) to allow ample time for any needed repairs and retests. [See "Before You Test" tips.](#)
- Vehicle owners will receive a registration renewal notice in the mail far in advance of their registration deadline. It is not necessary to present the notice or any paperwork at the time of inspection. The inspector will enter the vehicle information, which includes the vehicle identification number (VIN). The test record will then be transmitted electronically to the county tag office, to enable owners to complete their vehicle registration, if a passing test has been received.
  - Note: A hard copy of your emissions test is not required to complete your vehicle registration, but keeping a copy for your records is recommended.
- Inspections can be performed at any Georgia's Clean Air Force inspection station. [Search for a testing location online.](#)

### Registration Renewal in the 13-County Testing Area

- Registration renewals coincide with the vehicle owner's birthday.
- It can be done online, in person at a county tag office, by mail, by phone, or at a self-service tag kiosk.
- Required documents include:
  - License plate number or VIN number
  - Driver's license number or Letter ID
  - All registration fees, taxes, and convenience fees, paid by debit card, credit card, or electronic check
  - Proof of liability insurance on file, if applicable
  - A passing emissions inspection certificate, if applicable

- Learn more about registration renewal at <https://dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicles>.

To download an infographic, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at <https://cleanairforce.com/common/press>.

### **About Georgia's Clean Air Force**

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented nearly 2.1 million tons of harmful ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe. The program has also identified and repaired more than 4.3 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit <https://www.cleanairforce.com/>.

Source: <https://atlantaregional.org/atlanta-region/population-employment-forecasts/>

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