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Top Consumer Tips for a Failed Emissions Test

ATLANTA (September 29, 2022) – 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. This has been accomplished by identifying and repairing over 4.1 million vehicles in metro Atlanta counties that failed emissions testing.

“It is important that consumers are aware of their rights and responsibilities when a vehicle fails its emissions inspection,” said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. “Although a failed emissions test is not an outcome anyone wants, it provides an opportunity to obtain repairs that reduce harmful emissions and ultimately improve the livelihood of one’s vehicle.”

If a vehicle fails its emissions inspection, its owner should:

1. Check for [warranty coverage, recalls, and technical service bulletins \(TSBs\)](#) regarding the emissions control systems.
2. Have a diagnostic analysis performed on the vehicle.
3. Choose a reputable repair facility. The [RepairWatch Public Report](#), available on the GCAF website, lists repair shops that have an 80% or better success rate in emissions-related repairs.
4. Have a mechanic complete the Emissions Repair Form after the required repairs have been made. Keep all repair records and receipts.
5. Obtain a **free retest within 30 days** of the initial failed test at the original inspection station. Provide the inspector with the completed Emissions Repair Form at the time of retesting. If the vehicle fails the retest, additional repairs and retesting may be required.

A [Repair Waiver](#) may be available if certain criteria, including the following, are met:

- The vehicle did not pass the first inspection and the after-repairs retest.
- The cost for emissions-related repairs meets or exceeds \$978.
- The retested vehicle shows some improvement in all the areas it did not pass in the initial test.
- The retested vehicle still passes the areas it passed in the initial test.

A **referee test** can be scheduled if a motorist has concerns regarding the inspection equipment or validity of test results.

More information about vehicle emissions testing can be found on the Georgia's Clean Air Force website, www.cleanairforce.com, including tips for preparing for an emissions test in order to avoid a failing test in the future.

To download an infographic, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at www.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 4.1 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit www.cleanairforce.com.

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