



BUYER BEWARE

What To Do Before Buying 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 2024, this includes all 2000 - 2021 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 (2022, 2023, 2024); or
- 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 “Find Your 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 regarding a vehicle being sold without a current valid passing VIR by completing the Used Vehicle Sale Complaint Form.

The Used Vehicle Sale Complaint Form and the Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Sale of Vehicles (section 391-3-20-.18) can be viewed by visiting the GCAF website at www.cleanairforce.com and clicking on “Forms and Program Info” via the Quick Links section in the footer.

