



Georgia's Clean Air Force  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



## SPARE THE AIR AND YOUR WALLET

Ongoing vehicle maintenance can save you money and help keep our air clean.

Consider these tips to help prepare for your next vehicle emissions test.

- The most common reasons for emissions test failure include:
  - ✓ A malfunction in the components of the vehicle that regulate the fuel/air ratio, such as the oxygen sensor and the EGR valve
  - ✓ Dirty air filters
  - ✓ Misfiring spark plugs
  - ✓ Leaks in the vacuum system
  - ✓ A poorly fitting fuel cap

Many of these components can be checked and repaired during routine tune-ups. Follow the vehicle manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule.

- Change the vehicle's oil regularly.
- Replace the fuel cap securely after filling up. The malfunction indicator light (MIL; otherwise known as the "Check Engine" or "Service Engine Soon" light) may illuminate because of a loose fuel cap. If the MIL is illuminated, tighten the fuel cap until it clicks, then drive the vehicle until the light turns itself off. If it does not turn off, take the vehicle to a qualified repair technician.
- Keep the sealing surfaces of the fuel cap clean and in good condition.
- Keep the vehicle's tires properly inflated.
- Check belts and hoses for wear.
- Before seeking repairs, research any recalls, technical service bulletins (TSBs), and manufacturer-applied warranties regarding the vehicle's emissions control system.



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1.800.449.2471

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# 2024 ABOUT GEORGIA'S VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



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Georgia's Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program is designed to identify and ultimately repair gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks that pollute the air. Georgia's I/M program, known as Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), helps our area work toward attaining federal clean air standards.

## WHICH VEHICLES REQUIRE A PASSING EMISSIONS INSPECTION TO RENEW THEIR 2024 REGISTRATION?

2000 to 2021\* model year gasoline-powered cars or light-duty trucks (gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less) registered in Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, or Rockdale County require a passing emissions inspection for 2024 registration renewal.

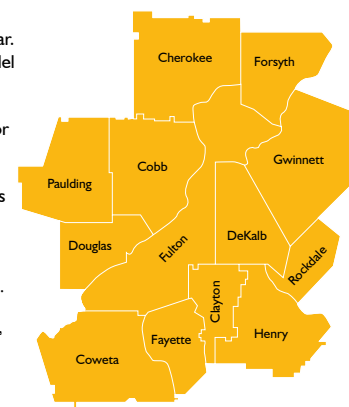
\* The three most recent model years are exempt from emissions inspection each year. In 2024, this includes 2022 and newer model year vehicles. Motorcycles, recreational vehicles (RVs), motor homes, and diesel vehicles do not require emissions testing for registration.

Para obtener información sobre las pruebas en español, visite [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).

한국어로 된 테스트 정보를 보려면 [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com) 을 방문하십시오.

Để biết thông tin kiểm tra bằng tiếng Việt, hãy truy cập [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).

如需中文普通話測試信息，請訪問 [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).



## TESTING TIPS

- Test early. The registration renewal date is the vehicle owner's birthday. GCAF recommends having your vehicle inspected four to six weeks prior to its registration renewal date to allow time for any needed repairs. In some cases, you may be able to test earlier than that. Contact your tag office to verify how early a test your county will accept.
- A vehicle can be tested well in advance of its registration renewal date if the driver will be out of the area at the time of renewal. An inspection is valid for 12 months or one renewal by the same owner.
- You do not need a printed copy of the vehicle inspection report (VIR) to complete registration. The VIR will be on record electronically at the tag office. However, it is recommended that you keep a copy for your records.
- Follow the recommended maintenance and tune-up schedule for your vehicle. A properly maintained vehicle gets better fuel economy than a poorly maintained one. Furthermore, an improperly maintained vehicle may lead to a compromised emissions control system that is ineffective in removing or reducing harmful air pollutants. This could result in the vehicle not passing the emissions test. Make sure your vehicle is ready and help keep Georgia's air clean.

## What if I am buying a used vehicle?

If you are buying a used vehicle that will be registered in one of the 13 metro counties that require emissions inspection from a seller also located within the 13-county testing area, make sure that the seller has a passing vehicle inspection report (VIR) dated within the last 12 months for the vehicle. The seller is not required to provide a hard copy of the passing report.

To file a complaint against a seller located within the 13 metro counties for failing to have a passing VIR at the time of sale, visit [CleanAirForce.com](http://CleanAirForce.com) and complete the "Used Vehicle Sale Complaint Form."

## BUYING TIPS

- A Repair Waiver from a previous owner cannot be used to register a newly purchased used vehicle in the covered area. The vehicle must have a valid passing Georgia vehicle inspection report (VIR).
- Before purchasing a used vehicle, you can view a summary of the vehicle's most recent inspections using the vehicle identification number (VIN) at [CleanAirForce.com](http://CleanAirForce.com) or at any GCAF Service Center to ensure that an inspection was conducted within the last 12 months.

## WARNING!



If the malfunction indicator light (MIL) is on (otherwise known as the "Check Engine" or "Service Engine Soon" light), the vehicle will fail inspection. This is an indication of one or more emissions-related problems detected by the vehicle's on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer. The problem may be as minor as a loose fuel cap or as major as an emissions control system failure. Seek repairs prior to having an emissions test. If you present the vehicle for inspection with the "Check Engine" light on, the inspector cannot refuse to test it, but the vehicle will almost certainly fail.

## What if I think the inspection or the test equipment was faulty?

If you question the test procedures, the accuracy of the inspection equipment, or the validity of the results, you may request a referee test within 15 calendar days of the disputed inspection as long as no repairs have been made (15 days includes the day of the first inspection). For more information, call the GCAF Call Center at 800.449.2471. Also, please report offers to illegally pass a vehicle by calling the GCAF Call Center or by submitting an email to [info@cleanairforce.com](mailto:info@cleanairforce.com).

## How can I receive a refund?

Each emissions inspection station is independently owned and operated. Motorists may contact the station owner or manager directly or file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau or the Georgia Department of Law's Consumer Protection Division.



## MY VEHICLE FAILED. WHY?

There are two main reasons why a vehicle might fail its emissions inspection (also referred to as the on-board diagnostic [OBD] test).

1. There is something wrong with the vehicle's emissions control system and it needs to be repaired. If the vehicle fails its emissions inspection, you will receive a copy of the vehicle inspection report (VIR) and an Emissions Repair Form from the inspector. Take these documents to a repair facility. The VIR will indicate the general area(s) of failure and will help the repair technician determine the appropriate repairs. The emissions inspection is not a diagnostic analysis.
2. The vehicle's on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer is "Not Ready." While this does not necessarily mean that the vehicle has a problem, it does indicate that the vehicle's OBD computer has not met the criteria to be ready for testing.

## What should I do if my on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer is "Not Ready?"

The on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer may display "Not Ready" if repairs have recently been performed on the vehicle or if the battery was recently disconnected. If either of these things happened, [GCAF recommends](#) the following steps:

1. Drive the vehicle for approximately one to two weeks under normal conditions, including some highway driving.
2. If the vehicle has difficulty becoming "Ready," check the thermostat, fuses, and wiring to the battery and the OBD computer, or have a diagnostic analysis performed using an OBD generic scan tool. Connect the scan tool to the data link connector (DLC) under the dash, not under the hood.

Additionally, an aftermarket system (radio, CD player, security system, navigation system, or satellite radio) that is not properly installed can interfere with the on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer.

Research recalls, technical service bulletins (TSBs), drive cycles, and manufacturer-applied extended warranties to determine if there are recommended repairs regarding the vehicle's emissions control system.

Once repairs have been completed and the vehicle has been driven for one to two weeks to ready the OBD computer, return to the original inspection station for a free retest within 30 calendar days of the first test.

## My vehicle will not "communicate" during testing. What should I do?

1. Ask the inspector to attempt to test the vehicle several times.
2. If the vehicle has had an after-market system (radio, CD player, security system, navigation system, or satellite radio) installed, make sure that the wiring is not interfering with the connection to the vehicle's OBD computer or battery system.
3. Research recalls, technical service bulletins (TSBs), and manufacturer-applied extended warranties to determine if there are recommended repairs regarding the vehicle's emissions control system.

4. Have a diagnostic analysis performed using an OBD generic scan tool. Connect the scan tool to the data link connector (DLC) under the dash, not under the hood.

5. If the inspector has attempted to test the vehicle several times and/or a diagnostic analysis indicates the vehicle is able to communicate with an OBD generic scan tool, call the GCAF Call Center at 800.449.2471. A representative will document your situation and a GCAF representative will return your call promptly.

## What if the malfunction indicator light (MIL) illuminates after I complete the drive cycle?

Once the vehicle becomes "Ready," the on-board diagnostic (OBD) computer may detect additional emissions-related problems. If so, the MIL will illuminate. Proceed with the proper repairs before using your one free retest. Emissions or system communication-related issues will cause the MIL to illuminate.

## What is a diagnostic analysis?

A diagnostic analysis is performed to yield a transmission code that will help identify the transmission component(s) that need repair. Transmission malfunctions can prevent a vehicle from running efficiently, increasing emissions above federal certification limits. Transmission code-related repairs will count toward the repair waiver amount.



## WHERE DO I GO FOR REPAIRS?

The inspector will give you an Emissions Repair Form, a GCAF Q&A brochure, and a vehicle inspection report (VIR) showing the area(s) of the test the vehicle failed.

A diagnostic analysis should be performed by a qualified repair facility to determine more precisely why the vehicle failed. If the vehicle is still covered by a manufacturer-applied emissions control warranty, take it to an authorized dealer. If the vehicle is not under warranty, find a qualified emissions repair shop to make the necessary repairs. For a list of emissions repair shops with successful repair records, view the *RepairWatch* Public Report at any inspection station or at [CleanAirForce.com](#).

## REPAIR TIPS

1. Obtain an estimate for labor and parts before authorizing repairs.
2. Make sure the repair technician completes the Emissions Repair Form that was given to you by the inspector when the vehicle failed. You will need a completed Emissions Repair Form to get your free retest after the repairs have been performed.
3. Labor costs from licensed businesses count toward repairs on a Repair Waiver application. Self-repairs are allowed, but only the cost of parts counts toward repairs on a Repair Waiver application.
4. Keep all receipts. Repair receipts are not needed to obtain a retest but are required to apply for a Repair Waiver.

## When can my vehicle be retested?

You can obtain one free retest at the original inspection station within 30 calendar days of the vehicle's first inspection. The 30 days includes the day of the first test and expires at the same time of day that the original test took place. NOTE: Before a free retest can be performed, you must provide the inspector with the failing vehicle inspection report (VIR) and the completed Emissions Repair Form, which should be filled out by the repair technician. If self-repairs are conducted by the vehicle owner, only the cost of parts (not labor) should be documented on the Emissions Repair Form. If the original inspection station is closed when you return for the retest, call the GCAF Call Center at 800.449.2471 for assistance.

## What if my vehicle fails its inspection and I can't get it retested before its registration renewal is due?

If the vehicle fails its annual emissions inspection, please have all related taxes and fees ready. Then visit your local county tag office for information about a possible non-renewable 30-day extension on the vehicle's registration, per OCGA 40-2-20.



## POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS

### Repair Waiver

Visit [CleanAirForce.com](#) or a GCAF Service Center for complete instructions on how to apply for a Repair Waiver.

To qualify, all the following criteria must be met:

- The cost of emissions-related repairs must meet or exceed \$1,111.\*
- The vehicle must have failed the initial inspection and the after-repairs inspection.
- The failing vehicle must be present when applying for a Repair Waiver.

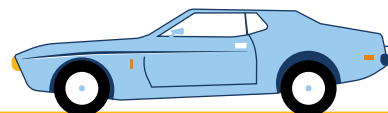
\* The Repair Waiver limit amount is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

### Senior Exemption

All the following criteria must be met to qualify for a Senior Exemption:

- The vehicle owner must be 65 years of age or older.
- The vehicle must be 10 model years old or older (2014 model year or older).
- The vehicle must be driven fewer than 5,000 miles per year. (The odometer must be functional to demonstrate this.)

The vehicle owner or a proxy may apply for this exemption at select county tag offices, at any GCAF Service Center, or online. Seniors who have received an exemption in the past may be able to renew via phone. For further information, call the GCAF Call Center at 800.449.2471.



## Out-of-Area Extension

If the vehicle and its primary driver are temporarily located at least 100 miles outside of the 13-county emissions testing area due to student, military, business, or other obligations, the vehicle owner may qualify for a temporary Out-of-Area Extension. The vehicle must be tested once it returns to the metro Atlanta area.

Please remember that a vehicle can be tested well in advance of its registration renewal date if the driver will be out of the area at that time.

An inspection is valid for 12 months or one renewal by the same owner. For details on qualifications and how to apply, visit [CleanAirForce.com](#) or contact the nearest GCAF Service Center.

The Georgia I/M rules are the final authority of the program. The rules are available at [CleanAirForce.com](#).



## GEORGIA'S CLEAN AIR FORCE FULL-TIME SERVICE CENTERS

**Clayton County**  
445 Atlanta South Parkway  
Suite 150  
Atlanta, GA 30349

**Cobb County**  
2130 Northwest Parkway  
Suite E  
Marietta, GA 30067

**DeKalb County**  
**Northlake Executive Center**  
2260 Northlake Parkway, Suite 204  
Tucker, GA 30084

**Gwinnett County**  
Peachtree Office Center  
1810 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Suite 239  
Duluth, GA 30097

For information on part-time GCAF Service Centers at additional locations in metro Atlanta, please visit [CleanAirForce.com](#) or call 800.449.2471.

In addition to the GCAF Service Centers listed here, some select county tag offices offer waiver services, which could save you a trip. Visit [CleanAirForce.com](#) or call the GCAF Call Center at 800.449.2471 for directions and hours of operation.



## LET US KNOW HOW WE ARE DOING!

You may also send us your comments via email by visiting [CleanAirForce.com](#).



**CleanAirForce.com**  
1.800.449.2471

[Facebook.com/GeorgiasCleanAirForce](#)

[Twitter.com/GaCleanAirForce](#)

[YouTube.com/c/GeorgiasCleanAirForce](#)

[Instagram.com/GeorgiasCleanAirForce](#)

Comment for Inspector/Station \_\_\_\_\_ or GCAF Customer Service \_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector or GCAF Customer Service Representative Name \_\_\_\_\_

Station Name & Address or GCAF Service Center Location \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

1. How would you rate your experience with this inspector or GCAF customer service representative?  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you rate your experience with this inspection station (if applicable)?  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_\_\_

3. If your vehicle failed, did the inspector refer you to the RepairWatch Public Report booklet? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. If your vehicle failed, did the inspector provide you an Emissions Repair Form and a GCAF Q&A brochure? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. Have you ever visited our website at [CleanAirForce.com](#)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5a. If so, how would you rate the ease of finding program information?  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_\_\_

6. Have you ever called our toll-free information line? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

6a. If so, how would you rate your overall experience with the process and representative?  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you ever visited a GCAF Service Center? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7a. If so, was the customer service representative courteous and professional? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7b. How would you rate your overall experience with the process?  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_\_\_