

# Emission Check

You're on the Road to Cleaner Air.

**Your vehicle failed its emission test.  
Now what?**

## **What do you do after your vehicle fails its test?**

Have your vehicle repaired and re-tested.

- Ecology suggests taking your vehicle to an Authorized Emission Specialist at one of the repair shops on the list given to you with this document. Lists of Authorized Emission Specialists are also available on Ecology's web site at [www.emissiontestwa.com](http://www.emissiontestwa.com).
- Anyone can repair your vehicle. However, only diagnosis and/or repairs performed by an Authorized Emission Specialist may qualify for a waiver (see "What is a waiver?" below).
- Your \$15 Emission Check fee includes one free re-test if your first test was done at a test station run by Applus Technologies. The retest must be done within 365 days of the first test. After the second test, each additional test costs \$15.

**NOTE:** Authorized Test Facilities (ATFs) are not run by Applus and may charge a different fee.

## **What is the difference between test stations run by Applus Technologies, and ATFs?**

- ATFs are retail businesses that offer emission testing. ATFs set their own test fees, which may be different from the fee charged at test stations operated by Applus Technologies.
- Vehicles that fail an emission test at an ATF will NOT be given a second free re-test at an Applus test station.

Please check with the individual business for their hours of operation and charges:

[www.emissiontestwa.com/e/ATF\\_Locations.aspx](http://www.emissiontestwa.com/e/ATF_Locations.aspx)

## **What is a waiver?**

A waiver allows you to register your vehicle this year even if it doesn't pass its final test.

## **How do you qualify for a waiver?**

When your vehicle fails its re-test, you can get a waiver if **all** of the following things have occurred:

- You have spent at least \$150 on diagnosis and/or appropriate emissions repairs by an Authorized Emission Specialist.
- You have given the test station manager your original repair receipts signed by the Authorized Emission Specialist. (The receipts must identify your vehicle by its license number and vehicle identification number.)

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- Your vehicle passed a visual inspection of its emission control equipment.
- Your vehicle failed a re-test after being diagnosed or repaired.

**Repair Waivers are only issued at test stations operated by Applus Technologies.**

### Tips for re-testing

It is important to have your vehicle's engine and emission control equipment at normal operating temperature during the emission test. Some ways to help ensure this are:

- **Try to test when you will not have to wait in a long line.** The lines are usually shorter in the middle of the month and in the afternoon. Avoid going for a test on Mondays and Saturdays if you can. You can view the waiting at the test stations at Ecology's Emission Check Program web site: [www.emissiontestwa.com/e/QueueViewing.aspx](http://www.emissiontestwa.com/e/QueueViewing.aspx).
- Before going to the test station, drive your vehicle on the freeway for 10 to 15 minutes. This helps bring it to its normal operating temperature.
- When you arrive at the test station, turn off all accessories (air conditioner, lights, wipers, heater, radio, etc.).
- While in line, leave your vehicle's engine running unless you are asked to turn it off.

**Once your vehicle has either passed a re-test or received a waiver, you may re-license it.**

### What if your vehicle fails a test because it is "not ready"?

- Your vehicle failed the emission test because the vehicle's computer which monitors the vehicle's emission controls was unable to determine if the vehicle will pass an emission test.
- More information about "not ready" is available at test stations, or on Ecology's web site at [www.emissiontestwa.com/e/OBDReadiness.aspx](http://www.emissiontestwa.com/e/OBDReadiness.aspx).

**Please see page three (3) of this document for more information about "not ready" failures.**

### Questions?

If you have questions about your vehicle's emission test, please see the manager of the test station.

If you need more help, please call Ecology between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays at:

**Western Washington 1-800-272-3780 or Eastern Washington 1-509-329-3491**

For more information about Ecology's Emission Check Program, go to Ecology's web site at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/automotive\\_pages.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/automotive_pages.htm)

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### **OBD Overview**

On Board Diagnostics (OBD) is a computerized system on 1996 & newer model year gasoline vehicles that monitors the operation of emissions systems. This system detects malfunctioning or deteriorating emissions control components before an even more serious failure occurs.

When a malfunction is detected, a code is stored in the computer and the “Check Engine Light” light will illuminate. This notifies the driver to obtain further diagnosis by a skilled repair technician to determine the most appropriate repairs.

### **Why is my vehicle “Not Ready”?**

Your vehicle may have a problem that prevents the system from being “ready.”

A vehicle’s computer may also report a “not ready” condition if it has lost power or been reset. A common cause of “not ready” failures is an interruption of power to the computer, such as a dead or disconnected battery.

During certain repairs a technician may need to clear or reset the computer.

### **What can I do to get my vehicle “Ready”?**

Driving the vehicle under a variety of conditions may allow your vehicle to report a “ready” status. Ask your repair technician about how to prepare for your retest.

Your vehicle may qualify for the installation of an OBD readiness detector at no cost to you. This is a device that can alert you when your vehicle has become “ready” to test. Ask a test station manager if your vehicle qualifies.

### **Can I get a waiver if my vehicle fails for not being ready?**

Yes. The cost of diagnosis/repairs by an Ecology Authorized Emission Specialist after a failed test can apply toward a waiver.