

Texas State Inspection

Each year, personal light-duty gasoline-powered vehicles that are 2 to 24 years old, and registered in an emissions testing county in Texas, must pass an annual emissions inspection as part of the State's Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program.

OBD II TEST

During an OBD II emissions test, the inspector attaches the vehicle to an analyzer, which checks the on-board computer in the vehicle to see if all the monitored systems are working correctly.

The OBD II test should readily identify vehicle problems, thereby reducing repair time and costs. This will, in turn, contribute to lower vehicle exhaust emissions.

CLEAN SCANNING

Ensuring that your vehicle passes a legitimate inspection is crucial for compliance with state regulations. However, some inspection stations engage in a fraudulent practice known as "clean scanning," where they use a different vehicle that is known to pass inspection to falsify results for another vehicle that will not pass inspection. This practice is **ILLEGAL** and can have serious consequences for both the consumer and the shop involved.



REGIONAL SMOKING VEHICLE PROGRAM

Have you spotted excessive smoke from a vehicle tailpipe? The Regional Smoking Vehicle Program lets you anonymously inform another driver that their vehicle may be emitting harmful pollutants. The driver will receive a letter with tips. Call 817-704-2522 or visit smokingvehicle.org.

Did You Know?

If a vehicle's check engine light is on, it will **AUTOMATICALLY FAIL** the State's annual emissions inspection. You can save money and improve fuel economy by addressing the check engine light as soon as it comes on.

If a vehicle is operated in an emissions testing county in Texas more than 60 days a year, it must pass an emissions inspection, regardless of whether or not it is registered in that county. This includes vehicles registered out-of-state.

For More Information

Visit us at www.NTXCarCare.org



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GETTING TO KNOW
YOUR VEHICLE'S

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT





Your Car's Light

Engine warning lights have been installed on vehicles as early as the late 1960s, with the first generation of on-board diagnostic systems (OBD) being introduced in the 1980s.

PRE-1996 LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

Uses for the check engine light, also known as the Malfunction Indicator Lamp, are varied—it could come on to remind drivers of scheduled maintenance, transmission problems, or anything else the manufacturer finds appropriate.

1996 AND NEWER LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The check engine light is reserved for computer system or emissions related problems only.

HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

OBD technology was phased-in beginning in 2005 with all heavy-duty vehicles being OBD compliant by model year 2013.

How It Works

ON-BOARD COMPUTER RUNS TESTS

- 1 Upon starting the engine, the on-board computer runs thousands of tests of various systems and monitors. Tests continue throughout the duration of a running engine.

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ILLUMINATES

- 2 When a problem has been detected by the on-board computer, a trouble code is generated and the check engine light comes on. The light may appear to randomly cycle on and off, but unless steps have been made to identify and fix the problem, it is likely that the problem remains and the light will come back on once the computer cycles through all of the tests.

PROBLEM DIAGNOSED

- 3 When a check engine light comes on, the vehicle should be taken to a repair shop or auto parts store for a technician to plug a scan tool into the OBD port to read stored trouble code(s). Contrary to popular belief, the check engine light does not specify exactly what is wrong. It simply flags that there is a problem with the emissions and/or electrical systems, or with software programming. Once the issue causing the code has been identified, a technician must run a detailed diagnostic to determine the exact cause of the trouble code.

REPAIR MADE

- 4 Once the necessary repairs are completed, the trouble code is reset and the check engine light will turn off.

Consequences

The vehicle may appear to run normally after the check engine light comes on, or you may notice:

- Drivability issues (stalls or misfires)
- Decreased fuel economy
- Excessive smoke from the tailpipe

If the problem is not addressed it can have several effects:

- Wear and tear on other components which may lead to larger and more expensive repairs
- Automatic failure of the annual state emissions inspection

Passenger vehicles in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant counties cannot be registered without a passing state emissions inspection. If a vehicle is driven on Texas roadways without a valid registration, it could result in **FINES AND/OR VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT**.

