

Rule Adoption Notice

Air Quality Program

July 2011

Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection Rule, Chapter 173-422A WAC

This notice explains the new rule for operating the Emission Check Program's emission testing stations beginning July 1, 2012.

What is Chapter 173-422A WAC?

A new rule is needed because state law requires changes to the current Emission Check Program. Chapter 173-422A WAC replaces Chapter 173-422 WAC. This new rule will retain several provisions from 173-422 WAC that are necessary to implement the program.

WAC 173-422A aims to make getting an emission test easier by:

- Allowing other businesses in addition to Ecology's contractor to test vehicles.
- Streamlining testing procedures by eliminating gas cap checks and dynamometer testing. Increasing numbers of vehicles tested by obtaining information from the vehicle's "on-board diagnostic" (OBD) system make these tests less relevant.

Other provisions in WAC 173-422A:

- Require that all testing to be done online with the state contractor's computer system.
- Exempt all light-duty diesel vehicles and the heavy-duty diesel vehicles that meet the EPA 2007 exhaust emission standards or are equipped with an exhaust particle filter.
- Use the same test standards for all 1995 model year and older gasoline vehicles.
- Require the OBD monitor(s) that detected a problem on the initial test be ready for a passing retest.

MORE INFORMATION

Vehicle Emission Inspection Program website:

<http://www.emissiontestwa.com/e/>

RSS Feed for automotive technicians:

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/AppplusWashingtonStateEmissionTesting?format=xml>

To get updates on Ecology's rule making activities, sign-up for the WACTrack e-mail list at : www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html.

Effective date

July 1, 2012

Contact information:

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Special accommodations:

If you need this document in format for the visually impaired, call the Air Quality Program at 360-407-6800.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

- Permit a repair waiver for vehicles unable to be retested.
- No longer require listed automotive repair businesses to have an exhaust analyzer. They will be required to have an OBD scan tool with full diagnostic capabilities.

Response to Comments

Ecology's response to comments received during the public comment period is now available. Download a copy at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1102024.html>.

Whom does this rule affect?

- Vehicle owners in the areas where emission testing is required.
- The Department of Licensing and the vehicle licensing agents.
- The State Contractor that is responsible for operating test stations, supplying the testing equipment to other businesses and managing all vehicle test data processing.
- Authorized testers including self-testing fleets and the firms that provide mobile testing services.
- Ecology authorized automotive repair businesses.
- Ecology staff responsible for informing, assisting and enforcing program requirement.

Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For more information about appealing this rule adoption, please contact Bari Schreiner, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 407-6998 or bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov.

