

Ohio E Check — Testing at a Glance

For more information: 1.800.CAR.TEST | www.ohiocheck.org | www.ohiocheck.info

ChoicePlus: Introducing a More Convenient E Check

About ChoicePlus

E Check, administered by Ohio EPA, is now more convenient—with ChoicePlus, offering more testing sites in the seven-county E Check testing area!

ChoicePlus allows you to choose the easiest way to get your E Check:

- 23 Full-Service E Check stations, where ALL vehicles can be tested.
- 40+ independent repair facilities, where most vehicles can be tested.
- 18 self-service kiosks located outside many of the existing E Check stations and 3 near BMV Registrar Offices, where you can conduct your own On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) test. Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!

E Check Works to Reduce Air Pollution

Motor vehicles are a major contributor of pollutants that form ground-level ozone. Cars and light trucks are one of the largest contributors to ground-level ozone and more than half of the pollutants that cause respiratory problems. Most of these pollutants are invisible and would go undetected without an effective auto emissions program.

Key Facts:

1. Ohio must continue to operate the E Check program in order to comply with the federal Clean Air Act. Without the program, Ohio could risk losing federal highway funds, or face limits on industrial and commercial growth and more stringent consumer product controls.
2. Because of the E Check program, 10,871 tons of vehicle emissions are removed from the air each year in the seven E Check counties.
3. A vehicle that passes the E Check test runs cleanly and efficiently, has improved gas mileage and lasts longer.

E Check Testing Procedures

The inspector enters your vehicle data into the testing computer, performs a visual inspection for emissions equipment, such as, the presence of the catalytic converter and pressure tests the gas cap.

The vehicle's on-board diagnostic system is tested to check the operation or status of all the emission control systems. The check engine light is checked to see if it illuminates in the engine on and run positions. The diagnostic test occurs by connecting the testing computer (similar to a scan tool) to the diagnostic link connector (DLC) located usually under the dash or middle console. The results of the passing portions, failing emission codes and/or readiness monitors are listed in the test results area of the VIR. The test equipment also checks to see if the check engine light is being commanded on by the

vehicle's OBD system. This result is shown on the VIR at the MIL Cmd Status. The check engine light is technically known as the Malfunction Indicator Light. This indicates there is an emissions related issue. The codes that are causing the check engine light to come on are listed under the TR Number.

Your vehicle's gas cap is tested to ensure the cap seals tightly and does not allow fuel vapors to evaporate into the air. If the vehicle passes all these tests, you receive a passing inspection certificate that enables you to renew your vehicle registration. If the vehicle fails, you should have repairs performed and return for a retest.

OBD II

The OBD II hand-held reader device plugs directly into a vehicle's on-board computer to quickly check the status of the emissions system.

What is OBD II and How Does It Work?

On-board diagnostics (OBD II) is a complex computer package installed on 1996 and newer vehicles and light trucks and 1997 and newer diesel vehicles. This sophisticated system serves as an advanced warning to alert vehicle owners and auto technicians of failing engine components resulting in potentially high emissions. The current test population tested in the E Check program are equipped with an OBD II system.

The OBD II DLC, or Diagnostic Link Connector, is a standardized 16-pin connector in vehicles that allows a scan tool to access the vehicle's On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) system to retrieve diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs) and live data streams for troubleshooting and emissions testing.

How Is the Driver Notified About an Emissions Problem?

There is a special light on the dash that is reserved for emissions control and monitor systems. The light is turned on when OBD II finds a fault, error or failing engine component that could cause emissions to exceed standards. In some cases, it means that immediate service is needed to prevent expensive damage to the engine and high emissions.

Automobiles and light trucks use a variety of warning lights to notify drivers of different conditions. However, in the case of emissions malfunctions, the driver will see either the phrase "service engine soon" or "check engine," or a standard engine-shaped light will come on.

If the light is flashing, immediate service is recommended. Expensive damage may result if the problem is left unattended.

My Vehicle Didn't Fail, But My Readiness Monitors Are Not Set. How Can I Set Them?

There are many reasons why the monitors could be cleared or not ready. Usually this is caused during routine maintenance. For example, if the battery is disconnected for any

reason, the monitors of most vehicles are cleared. Also, a technician may have to clear them as part of a repair process.

To set the monitors to ready, the vehicle must be driven through a drive cycle. The length of time and driving conditions necessary to reset the readiness monitors can vary from one vehicle model to another. Some owner's manuals explain driving procedures needed, while others do not. The vehicle manufacturer or a qualified service technician is the best source for this information. The driving times necessary to reset readiness monitors can vary greatly. Newer vehicles typically reset much quicker.

Preparing for an Inspection

Following these simple tips will help you breeze through the E Check process.

General (All Tests)

4. The emissions control equipment for your vehicle must be intact and functioning. Vehicles missing a catalytic converter will be rejected from the emissions test if that model vehicle was originally equipped with a catalytic converter. Removing or tampering with emissions equipment will cause your vehicle to fail the test.
5. Follow recommended maintenance schedules for your vehicle. Read the owner's manual and follow maintenance guidelines. Your vehicle will perform more efficiently, increasing its chances of passing the emissions test. Regular maintenance includes periodic oil and filter changes and tune-ups.
6. A gas cap is required equipment if your model vehicle was originally equipped with a gas cap. It must be the correct type for your vehicle and be in place.
7. Do not overfill the gas tank. When you fill your tank, resist the impulse to get just a "little bit more" into the tank after the nozzle clicks off. The excess gasoline has nowhere to expand and may saturate a part of the emissions system.
8. Safety for E Check inspectors and customers is of the utmost importance; therefore all vehicles will be turned away from the testing station if the vehicle demonstrates any of the following:
 - Issues with braking system
 - Extensive fluid leaks
 - Driver's door or window inoperable

If Your Vehicle Passes

When a vehicle passes its E Check test, you receive an E Check Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR). This report is valid for one year from its initial test date, even though the vehicle won't need another test for two years. This report should be saved with the vehicle's registration since it may be transferred to a new owner if the vehicle is sold within 365 days of its test.

If Your Vehicle Fails

Motorists whose vehicles fail the test will be given a list of approved and licensed E Check repair facilities. If a vehicle fails the emissions test, you can take it to the repair facility of your choice. Or, you can make your own repairs.

Self-Service Kiosk

Get an E Check at your convenience with one of our 18 self-service kiosks located at selected E Check stations or 3 near BMV Registrar Offices throughout Northeast Ohio, where you can conduct your own On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) test. These easy-to-use kiosks walk you through the simple process of conducting your own OBD test 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Visit www.ohiocheck.info for the schedule and locations of the vans.

Rev 9-25-25