

Northern Region Fact Sheet

New Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

The Northern Region includes:

*Blair, Erie, Cambria, Centre, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming and Mercer Counties
(1 million subject vehicles)*

What is planned?

- The Northern Region will phase-in a Visual Anti-Tampering Check and a Gas Cap Test from January 2004 through March 2004.
- Most 1975 and newer vehicles will receive a Visual Anti-Tampering Check and a Gas Cap Test.

What is the Visual Anti-Tampering Check?

The Visual Anti-Tampering Check is an examination of the vehicle to see if the required emissions components have been tampered with or removed. A certified technician will look for the following emission control devices:

- Catalytic converter,
- Exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) valve,
- Positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) valve,
- Fuel inlet restrictor,
- Air pump, and
- Evaporative control system components such as vapor canisters and lines.

The technician will also determine if these devices are properly connected and if they are the correct type for the vehicle being inspected.

What is a Gas Cap Test?

A Gas Cap Test is a functional check to determine if a vehicle's gas cap seals properly. A gas cap that does not seal properly allows harmful evaporative emissions (fumes) to escape from a vehicle's gas tank into the atmosphere. Stations who wish to participate will be required to purchase equipment to perform the Gas Cap Test. Cost of equipment is estimated to range from \$4500 to \$7500.

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Key Program Elements

- The program will be a decentralized program, allowing motorists the ability to go to the certified emissions station of their choice to receive the Visual Anti-Tampering Check and the Gas Cap Test.
- The cost of the Visual Anti-Tampering Check and the Gas Cap Test will be market driven and set by the participating stations.
- Technicians will be required to become certified in order to perform the required emissions inspections.
- The emissions inspection is required annually in conjunction with the annual safety inspection. A vehicle must get an emissions inspection or exemption before a safety inspection can be completed and a sticker issued.
- The message “Emissions Inspection Required/Diesel Vehicles Exempt” will be printed on the motorist’s vehicle registration card to remind them that an emissions inspection is required for that vehicle.
- Some exempt vehicles include vehicles registered as: antiques, classics, collectibles, street rods, specially constructed, vehicles over 9,000 lbs. and non-gasoline powered vehicles.