

# ***South Central Region Fact Sheet***

## ***New Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program***

### ***The South Central Region includes:***

*Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton and York Counties  
(1.8 million subject vehicles)*

### ***What is planned?***

- The South Central Region will phase-in the On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Checks from December 2003 through February 2004.
- Most 1996 and newer vehicles will receive an OBD I/M Check and a Gas Cap Test.
- Most 1975 through 1995 vehicles will receive a Visual Anti-Tampering Check and a Gas Cap Test.

### ***What is On-Board Diagnostics?***

OBD is a modern vehicle emissions inspection designed to detect problems with the computerized engine components found on most 1996 and newer model-year gasoline-powered vehicles. During an OBD I/M Check, a technician will attach a cable to the vehicle's onboard computer to see if the vehicle's emissions equipment is damaged or otherwise malfunctioning. The check can assist in preventing major engine problems and therefore major expenses caused by failing equipment while subsequently benefiting the environment in reducing the amount of harmful gasses emitted. Emissions inspections will be completed at private service stations and dealers who opt to participate in the program. Stations who wish to participate will be required to purchase equipment to perform the OBD I/M Check and 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. The same equipment that is used to perform the OBD I/M Check also incorporates a gas cap tester.

## ***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 OBD I/M Check and Gas Cap Test for their vehicle.
- The cost of the OBD I/M Check, the Gas Cap Test and the Visual Anti-Tampering Check 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 your 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., non-gasoline powered vehicles and vehicles driven less than 5,000 miles during the previous year.
- For vehicles that fail the emissions inspection, a waiver may be issued for one year. Waivers will not be issued to vehicles that do not pass the Visual Anti-Tampering Check and the Gas Cap Test.

## ***Equipment***

- Cost of equipment is estimated to range from \$4900 to \$8000.
- 7 Manufacturers currently working towards the certification process.
- As Manufacturers equipment becomes approved, it will be posted on the Drive Clean PA website.