

Vehicle Licensing Guide

Emissions Inspection Program
VLIC-4.410

Original Date: 01/22/1999
Revision Date: 01/25/2022

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POLICY	
Title: Emissions Inspection Program	
Effective Date: January 22, 1999	Revision Date: January 25, 2022
Authority: Code of Virginia §§ 46.2-100 , 46.2-730 , 46.2-1176 through 46.2-1178 , 46.2-1182.1 , 46.2-1183	
<p>Policy: No vehicle that is subject to emissions inspection will be registered or reregistered by DMV until it has passed the emissions inspection or has been issued directly from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) an emissions inspection waiver for special circumstances. Emissions inspections are valid for two years and are required for vehicles that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principally garaged in one of the following emissions jurisdictions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, or Stafford○ Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, or Manassas Park <p>And that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gasoline-powered passenger or property carrying vehicles that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Are less than 25 years old beginning January 1 of the current calendar year, and○ Have a manufacturer's designated gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or less. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diesel powered passenger or property carrying vehicles for which THE FOLLOWING is true:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Are manufactured for model year newer than 1996, and○ Have a GVWR of less than 8,501 pounds <p>DMV collects a \$2 per year emissions fee at time of registration for vehicles principally garaged in an emissions jurisdiction. The \$2 per year emissions is due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When registering vehicles purchased during an existing 2-year emissions period, regardless if the prior emissions validity period has expired.• When titling and registering vehicles purchased with less than 12 months remaining on the current emissions inspection. <p>Although emissions inspection results are usually electronically updated to DMV's system by DEQ inspection stations, DMV will also manually enter the updated emissions status directly from a Vehicle Emissions Inspection Report with a valid transaction identification number (TIN) or DEQ waiver.</p>	

Exceptions:

The following vehicles are exempt from the emission inspection, but must pay the \$2 emission fee:

1. Vehicles 25 years old or older that qualify as antique motor vehicles but are not required to display antique license plates to qualify for the emissions exemption
2. Antique vehicles as defined in Va. Code § [46.2-100](#) and licensed pursuant to § [46.2-730](#)
3. New or demonstrator vehicles are exempt from emissions inspections for 4 years.
4. Used vehicles of the current and three previous model years are exempt from emissions inspections for up to 4 years.
5. Qualified hybrid motor vehicles

The following vehicles are exempt from both the emissions inspection AND the \$2 emission fee:

6. Gasoline-powered passenger or property carrying vehicle with a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds
7. Gasoline-powered passenger or property carrying vehicles with a model year that is more than 25 years old before January 1 of the current year
8. Autocycles as defined in Va. Code § [46.2-100](#), and exempt pursuant to Va. Code § [46.2-1177](#) (5)
9. Diesel powered vehicles

NOTE: Diesel powered vehicles are NOT exempt if it has a model year newer than 1996 and a GVWR of less than 8,501 lbs.

10. Motorcycles
11. Vehicles not powered by an internal combustion engine
12. Vehicles powered EXCLUSIVELY by a clean special fuel, including:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a. Compressed Natural Gas | f. Liquefied Natural Gas |
| b. Electricity | g. Liquefied Petroleum Gas |
| c. Ethane | h. Methane |
| d. Hybrid Gasoline/Electric | i. Solar Energy |
| e. Hydrogen | j. Combination of 2 types of clean special fuels |

NOTE: Vehicles that are **assisted** by clean fuel, but that also use fuels not classified as clean special fuel, are NOT exempt

13. Mopeds and scooters

<<<<REVISION

14. Foreign military personnel stationed at military installations in Virginia under the auspices of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are exempt from bringing their vehicles into compliance with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). They may register their vehicles for the length of their tour of duty only. A copy of their orders is sufficient to determine the length of their tour of duty. **END REVISION>>>>**

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OVERVIEW

Vehicles that are garaged in the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, or Stafford, or the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas or Manassas Park are subject to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) emissions inspection requirements.

In special circumstances, DEQ may issue emissions inspection waivers for a vehicle for which costs to repair the vehicle to meet emission standards would exceed a specific repair cost threshold. See [Exceptions](#) in this procedure.

For a complete list of cities and counties in the Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudon and Stafford, refer to the [Detailed Emission Inspection Counties and Cities List](#). Emissions inspection and repair facilities locations are listed on the [DEQ Website](#).

DEQ REMOTE SENSING PROGRAM

DEQ monitors any vehicles traveling in the Northern Virginia districts by means of remote sensors as part of an emissions enforcement program. A vehicle may be determined a "high emitter" (emissions exceed allowed limits) even when not garaged in an emissions jurisdiction. Vehicle owners must bring the vehicle into compliance, but is not required to pay the \$2 per year emission fee.

DEQ notifies owners of vehicles that are determined as high emitters of the requirement to have the vehicle repaired and inspected or be denied renewal of their registration. DEQ will remove the requirement once the vehicle passes the emissions inspection, or is issued a DEQ waiver.

In addition to DEQ Remote Sensing, RAPIDPASS Clean Screen vehicle emissions on-road testing sites allow drivers with very clean vehicles to have their emissions inspected on the road during normal driving routines and are located throughout the Northern Virginia emissions inspection area.

ACCEPTANCE OF OUT-OF-STATE EMISSIONS INSPECTIONS

Out-of-state emissions inspection certificates are accepted from all states when registering a vehicle in Virginia, provided:

- An original, valid emissions inspection report from the other state is provided at time of registration.
- The certificate shows the vehicle passed the emissions inspection in the other state.
- The inspection was performed in the last 12 months, and more than 9 months remain in the validity period.
- The vehicle is being registered for a period not to exceed 12 months.
- The owner pays the \$2 emissions fee.

DEALER DEFERRED VEHICLES

A vehicle held in a dealer's inventory for resale (Dealer Deferral) may be deferred from emissions inspection requirements, but the \$2 per year emissions inspection fee is due when titled and registered. Vehicles qualifying for dealer deferral may be registered for a period not to exceed 12 months provided **all** of the following applies:

1. The vehicle was manufactured for the current or any of the three immediately preceding model years.
2. The dealer provides to DEQ a written statement that the emissions equipment was operating in accordance with the manufacturer's or distributor's warranty at the time of sale.
3. DEQ provides the dealer with an approved Dealer Deferral Certificate or a Deferral Code "D" is entered on the title record under the emissions status code by DEQ.

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CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit a completed "Application for Registration" ([VSA-14](#)), "License Plate Application" ([VSA 10](#)), or an "Application for Renewal" ([VSA-2](#)).
 - Pre-printed renewal applications indicate if an emissions inspection is required.
2. Submit a passed emissions inspection or a DEQ waiver if emissions status is not updated in the system.
 - Not required if the DMV vehicle record is updated with inspection or waiver status electronically by DEQ.
3. Pay the \$2 per year emissions fee, unless exempt (refer to the [Exceptions](#): section of this procedure).
4. Pay appropriate registration fee(s).

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FRONT COUNTER CSR

1. For vehicles not yet titled in Virginia, process a title transaction in accordance with [VLIC-3.000](#) before registering the vehicle and issuing license plates.
2. Verify accurate completion of the VSA-14, VSA 10, or VSA 2.
3. Process the original, renewal, or transfer registration transaction.
4. Verify that the fuel type is correct in the system; make any needed corrections.
5. Check the expiration date of the existing emissions inspection certificate, when submitted, to ensure that there is sufficient time remaining to allow an original, renewed, or transferred registration.
 - To register or renew for 1 year, or transfer license plates, there must be more than 3 months validity remaining before the emissions expiration date.
 - To register or renew for 2 years, there must be at least 15 months validity remaining before the emissions expiration date.
 - To register or renew for 3 years, there must be at least 27 months validity remaining before the emissions expiration date.
6. When no emissions inspection or DEQ waiver information is in the system:

FRONT COUNTER CSR (continued)

- i. Request submission of the official emissions inspection certificate, DEQ waiver form, or out-of-state emissions inspection certificate.
 - ii. For Virginia emissions inspections, enter the Transaction Identification Number (TIN) from the inspection or waiver form (right above the barcode).
 - o If the TIN is not accepted by the system, verify it was keyed correctly:
 - 1) Rekey the TIN if incorrect.
 - 2) If the TIN was keyed correctly, but is still not accepted by the system:
 - Return the form to the customer and request submission of a valid passed emissions inspection or DEQ waiver form.
 - o If the customer does not have the inspection or waiver form with him:
 - 1) Return the application to the customer and request submission of a passed emissions inspection or DEQ waiver form if the record shows the vehicle:
 - Failed inspection, or
 - Was determined to be a high emitter, or
 - Was already issued a 30-day extension within the 2-year emissions period, or
 - The registration is expired, or **more than** 30-days remain to the registration expiration.

OR

 - 2) If none of the above conditions exist on the record, issue a one-month decal (30-day registration issued one-time per registration period) to allow the customer time to obtain a passed inspection or waiver.
 - Advise the customer he must return with proof of the passed inspection, or with a DEQ waiver before a one or two year registration can be issued.
 - iii. For emissions inspection certificates from other states:
 - a. Verify all of the following is true:
 - An emissions inspection certificate from the other state is submitted.
 - The certificate clearly indicates the vehicle **passed** the emissions inspection in the other state.
 - The inspection was performed in the last 12 months, and more than 9 months remain in the validity period.
 - The vehicle is being registered for a period not to exceed 12 months.
 - The \$2 emissions fee is collected.
 - b. If all of the above are true, enter the 2-digit state code in the emissions TIN/OSS (Out-Of-State) field.
 - c. If any of the above requirements are not met, advise the customer the vehicle must pass a Virginia emissions inspection before the registration can be processed.
7. Collect the \$2 per year emissions fee, unless exempt (refer to the [Exceptions](#) section of this procedure).
 8. Collect required registration fee(s).
 9. Continue registration in accordance with [VLIC-4.000](#), [VLIC-4.110](#), or [VLIC-4.120](#).

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DMV CONTACT CENTER ACTIONS

- No actions at time of revision.

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POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Noncompliance with DEQ emission inspection results in registration renewal being denied until DEQ removes the requirements at the time of the inspection/waiver or until a passed emissions inspection form or DEQ waiver is submitted to any CSC.
- All emissions data, including the expiration date of an emissions certificate, dealer deferral or waiver certificate, is linked to the vehicle, not the owner.

- Emissions inspection requirements are not waived for members of Congress, diplomats and military personnel. Emissions inspection requirements depend upon where the vehicle is principally garaged, not the customer's address. Any questions regarding these vehicles should be referred to the DEQ regional office.
- Emissions inspection results are transmitted electronically to the customer vehicle record at DMV online from the emissions inspection stations through DEQ to DMV.
- Customers may still be required to submit a Vehicle Emissions Inspection Report when registering a vehicle in some cases (i.e. system problems at the emissions station, DEQ or DMV that results in emissions information not being posted to the customer record). If you have to enter new emissions data, enter the TIN and emissions test date found on the emissions certificate.
- Customers with questions regarding waivers, or other emission topics are advised to contact the DEQ at (703) 583-3900 or toll free at (800) 275-3844.

DEQ Northern Regional Office
 Mobile Source Operations Section
 (Air Check Virginia Program Office)
 13901 Crown Court
 Woodbridge, Virginia 22193-1453

- The emissions inspection performed by the manufacturer for new vehicles is valid for 4 years. However, the vehicle owner must pay the \$2 per year emissions fee at time of registration.
- If the vehicle is sold within the 2-year validity period, the new owner must pay the emissions fee. The new owner is also required to have the emissions inspection performed if there is less than 12 months left on the current inspection at time of purchase.
- Registrations that are denied due to failed emissions inspection, or for other reasons, may be eligible for a one-time, one-month registration extension to allow time to have the vehicle inspected. To determine if the vehicle qualifies, refer to [VLIC-4.110](#).
- Once the vehicle has failed an emissions inspection, is determined to be a "high emitter", or has received one 30-day extension within a 2-year emissions cycle, no decals may be issued until it has passed the inspection, or it is granted a DEQ waiver and the system has been updated.

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CONTACT

For additional information contact:

- Your CSC Manager/Assistant Manager
- DMV Contact Center Desk at (804) 367-6646
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at (703) 583-3900

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