



Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director

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Dear Repair Shop Owner/Technician:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources would like to thank all of the businesses, inspector/mechanics, and repair technicians who took the time to respond to the June 2006 Greater St. Louis Area Repair Industry Survey.

Of approximately 1,150 surveys mailed, the department received 270 responses, a 23 percent response rate. Eighty-two percent of the respondents indicated that they want to be licensed to perform emissions inspections, and 13 percent of the respondents indicated that they might be interested in being licensed to perform emissions inspections. Forty-six percent of the respondents indicated that they would like to buy, rent or lease the emissions inspection equipment, while 45 percent of the respondents indicated that they would like the state or the contractor to provide the emissions inspection equipment.

The Governor has signed Senate Bill 583 establishing a decentralized inspection and maintenance (I/M) program for the St. Louis ozone non-attainment area counties of Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis and the City of St. Louis after September 4, 2007. The Department is drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) for release later this year. This RFP will request bids from all interested companies to become the sole source provider of emissions inspection software and test equipment to those stations wishing to become licensed emissions inspection stations.

There are a number of details about the future emission I/M program known at this time. All 1996 and newer gasoline-powered vehicles and 1997 and newer diesel-powered vehicles under 8,501 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating registered within the St. Louis area non-attainment area will be subject to an On-board Diagnostic (OBD) and a gas cap pressure emissions inspection. There will not be any transient or idle tailpipe emissions testing requirements. The inspection frequency will remain the same as it is currently, with all odd model year vehicles tested during odd numbered years and all even model year vehicles tested during even number years. The emissions test fee is capped by state statute at \$24 per test.

Any facility or inspector that wishes to take part in the next decentralized emission I/M program will apply for an emissions inspection license from the appropriate state agency. The cost of the station license is capped at \$100 per year.

There is no cost for the inspector license. A facility will have the option to be licensed to conduct emissions inspections in either an inspect only or an inspect and repair capacity. The safety inspection program and licenses will still be regulated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. All licensed emissions inspection stations will be required to use equipment from the



state's selected vendor. The equipment will be capable of recording emissions inspection results, and transmitting these results to the state on a real-time basis. Equipment will be available for either purchase or lease.

The department will continue to promote Missouri Recognized Repair Technicians (MRRTs), although the requirements will change slightly. Repair technicians will still need current National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certificates in A6-Electrical Systems, A8-Engine Performance, and L1-Advanced Engine Performance Specialist to obtain and maintain their MRRT status. The mandatory initial 4-hour course and the annual 4-hour continuing education training requirement will no longer be required to be an MRRT. However, the department encourages all MRRTs to invest in continuing education, and may develop a voluntary recognition program for those who choose to invest in continuing education related to emissions diagnosis and repairs.

The department encourages all technicians to become an MRRT so that your labor costs can be applied toward customer waivers. The emissions waiver-spending minimum will be \$450 for all model years. Waivers will be granted by either the state or the vendor after repair receipts and the vehicle are reviewed for repair effectiveness.

To track the progress on the redesign of the I/M program or to view the results of the Repair Industry Survey conducted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, please visit the I/M Redesign Website at: www.dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/gcap/Imredesign.htm

Sincerely,

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

original signed by Haskins Hobson

W. Haskins Hobson, Jr., P.E.
I/M Team Coordinator

WHH:lm