

Frequently Asked Questions About Emissions Waivers

When is my vehicle eligible for an emissions waiver?

Cost-based emissions waivers are available under the following conditions:

- A motorist has spent more than \$450 on emissions-related repairs and labor after the initial test for an emissions related failure. Labor costs can only apply toward the waiver amount if a Missouri Recognized Repair facility performs the repairs.
- A motorist has spent more than \$450 on parts appropriate for the emissions-related failure after the initial test at a shop that is not a Missouri Recognized Repair facility;
- A motorist performs the repairs themselves after the initial test and spends at least \$400 in qualified emissions-control parts. Qualified emissions-control parts are listed on the waiver application form.
- If a motorist is financially dependent solely on state and federal disability benefits or other public assistance programs, they may qualify for a financial waiver. The motorist must provide reasonable and reliable proof to the department of their financial status and spend at least \$200 on emissions-related repairs and labor after the initial test to qualify.

Out-of-area waivers are available under these conditions:

- If a vehicle is registered in the St. Louis ozone nonattainment area, but being driven outside of that area in the state of Missouri for the next 24 consecutive months, the motorist may apply to the department for an out-of-area waiver.

Reciprocity waivers are available under these conditions:

- If a vehicle is in a state other than Missouri and that state conducts pass/fail on-board diagnostics, also known as OBD testing, the motorist may choose to have the vehicle emissions inspected in that state and apply to the department for a reciprocity waiver application.

Does every vehicle that fails an emissions test automatically qualify for a waiver?

No. If a vehicle fails an emissions test, the cause of the failure(s) must be diagnosed and repairs made that are appropriate for the failure. The vehicle must be retested after repairs have been made to determine the effectiveness of the repairs. The vehicle must have a properly working dashboard warning light, communicate with the test equipment and have readiness monitors set to ready before it can qualify for a cost-based waiver.

If my vehicle fails the bulb check portion of the emissions test, will those repairs qualify towards a waiver?

No. Repairs to pass the bulb check portion of the OBD test do not count toward the waiver spending minimums. The orange dashboard warning bulb also known as the malfunction indicator lamp, or Check Engine/Service Engine Soon light, is the only visual indicator the vehicle's OBD computer has determined something is wrong with a vehicle's emissions-control system. The MIL alerts the driver so they may take the vehicle to a trained repair technician to diagnosis and repair the vehicle. The functionality of the MIL is essential to maintaining the effectiveness of the OBD system.

If my vehicle fails to communicate with the OBD test equipment, will those repairs qualify towards a waiver?

No. Repairs made so the vehicle properly communicates with the test equipment do not count toward the waiver spending minimums. A valid vehicle emissions test requires the test equipment to be connected to the vehicle and for the vehicle's OBD computer to be capable of downloading its emissions status. If the diagnostic link connector is damaged, tampered, or blocked, or if the vehicle cannot communicate with the test equipment, then the vehicle must be repaired so an emissions test can be completed.

If my gasoline-powered vehicle has unset readiness monitors at the time of retest, is the vehicle eligible for a waiver?

No. The vehicle must pass the readiness portion of the OBD test to be eligible to receive a waiver. A vehicle's OBD system uses various readiness monitors to determine whether any problems are occurring that could require the MIL to illuminate and a diagnostic trouble code to be stored. Model year 1996 – 2000 vehicles will pass the readiness portion of the OBD test if no more than two monitors are "Not Completed" or unset. Model year 2001 and newer vehicles will pass the readiness portion of the OBD test if no more than one monitor is unset. All gasoline-powered vehicles will fail the readiness portion of the OBD test if either the Oxygen Sensor and/or the Catalytic Converter monitors are "Unsupported". If a vehicle fails an emissions test with a recorded catalytic converter related DTC (P0420-P0439), the vehicle will fail its retest if the catalytic converter monitor is unset.

Setting the monitors to "Completed" or ready can usually be accomplished through a combination of city and highway driving over a three to five day period. For more information about readiness monitor resetting, check the Owner's Manual or consult a repair technician. If the readiness monitors are not set after this period of time, the vehicle may need additional diagnosis and/or repair. The functionality of the readiness monitors is essential to maintaining the effectiveness of the vehicle's emissions-control system.

If my vehicle failed the emissions test for a single diagnostic trouble code, and the repair of that one diagnostic trouble code will cost more than \$450, what are my options?

The department encourages motorists to repair all vehicles with emissions malfunctions. However, if you are unable to perform the necessary repairs at this time, you can apply to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for an estimate-based waiver. The department will require significant diagnostic work and documentation to validate the repair estimate and qualify the vehicle for an estimate-based waiver.

How do I request a waiver?

Waiver applications are available on the Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program's Web site at: www.GatewayVIP.com. After you or your repair technician complete the waiver application, you will need to fax or mail the application, along with your repair receipts to:

Mail to:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
I/M Section
7545 Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 210
St. Louis, MO 63125

Fax to:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
I/M Section
(314) 416-2970 or (314) 416-2971

Once a request is received, motorists will be notified of the approval or denial of their request. If the request is approved, the Department of Natural Resources will notify the Department of Revenue electronically of the approval and send the motorist a letter with the waiver approval. Motorists can then register the vehicle. If the request is denied, the Department of Natural Resources will contact the motorist to let them know why the waiver request was denied. The Department of Natural Resources is not responsible for any penalties associated with late registration due to failure to submit a waiver request in a timely manner.

Who do I contact to discuss my vehicle repair and/or waiver questions?

You may contact the Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program's Inspection/Maintenance Team by phone at (314) 416-2115 or by e-mail: imunit@dnr.mo.gov.

For more information call or write

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program
St. Louis Regional Office
7545 S. Lindbergh, Suite 210
St. Louis, MO 63125
(314) 416-2115 office
(314) 416-2970 fax