



Williamson County CleanScreen Pilot program

I. Introduction

Environmental Systems Products (ESP) will be conducting a pilot remote sensing vehicle emissions testing program (CleanScreen) in Williamson County as a complement to its vehicle inspection program. Such a program will provide Williamson County and oversight agencies with technology that:

- Is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use in I/M programs in other states;
- Is already being utilized by the states of Colorado, Texas, and Virginia to satisfy EPA emissions testing mandates;
- Reduces inspection time by 100%.

II. Remote Sensing Technology

Remote sensing devices (RSD) provide an on-road emissions measuring system that eliminates the need for drivers to go to a vehicle test center. The technology instantly measures tailpipe emissions as motor vehicles pass through ultraviolet and infrared beams of light. Remote Sensing is an excellent tool for "clean screening" vehicles allowing very clean, low-polluting vehicles to skip the traditional visit to a test station.

How it works:

- The RSD vans will be set-up at highways on-ramps where vehicles are in a single line of traffic.
- The vehicle passes through speed and acceleration detectors that ensure the vehicle is traveling within acceptable acceleration parameters.
- The vehicle then passes through the infrared and ultraviolet beams of the emissions analyzer. A laser light source directs the beams across the road, where they are reflected off mirrors and directed back to a detector module. As the light beams are broken by the vehicle's exhaust plume, the detector module measures the levels of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen in the plume.
- A digital camera takes a picture of the vehicle's license plate; software merges vehicle registration information with the emissions test results and the license plate image.
- To ensure accurate, uncontaminated readings, Clean Screen vans do not operate during rain, snow, high winds or other adverse conditions.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When should I drive by the vans?

To meet the CleanScreen qualifications, your vehicle must record two clean readings. One of the readings is required to be within 90-days of the registration expiration date. For example, if your registration renewal is due in June, one CleanScreen reading is required between the beginning of March and the end of May. Keep in mind that CleanScreen standards are stricter than those of a traditional station test. A vehicle must be very clean and well-maintained to qualify.

2. How often should I drive by?

Since it takes two clean readings to meet CleanScreen qualifications, and because adverse weather and road conditions may cause any given result to be invalid, it's a good idea to drive by the Clean Screen van several times. However, only one reading per test site, per day will be accepted.

3. Is Clean Screen mandatory?

No. Participation in the CleanScreen program is entirely voluntary. If you receive a notice in the mail that states that your vehicle has qualified for CleanScreen, you may choose to participate in the program by simply sending in your payment. If you wish not to participate, you can simply take your vehicle to an emissions testing station to receive a standard emissions test.

4. How do I know if I've qualified?

If your vehicle has qualified for CleanScreen, you will receive a notification in the mail. You can choose to accept your vehicle's clean bill of health, and save yourself a trip to an emissions testing facility, by simply following the directions on the mailer and sending the test fee to the address provided.

Do not stop at the testing van. This is not safe for you, our van operators or oncoming traffic. Since results are not immediate, and van operators cannot tell you if your vehicle has passed, there is no reason to stop.

5. Where can I find the CleanScreen vans?

The CleanScreen van will be sent up on single lane on-ramps to Interstate 65 in Williamson County. The van will not always be at the same site each day.

6. Do I have to live in Williamson County to receive a CleanScreen test?

Yes. This is a pilot program that will be conducted in Williamson County only. A vehicle has to be registered in Williamson County in order to be eligible for a CleanScreen test.

7. When will CleanScreen testing start?

The tentative start date for the CleanScreen pilot program in Williamson County is June, 2011.