

EPA'S In-Use Vehicle Emissions Surveillance Program

Must I participate in this program?

No. Your cooperation in this program is completely voluntary. Even if you decide not to participate, please complete and return the enclosed reply form in the prepaid envelope.

Why should I participate?

Your participation will help EPA understand important information about controlling air pollution from vehicles, and, thereby, help improve air quality in and around the area where you live. Your vehicle will be returned to you with a full tank of fuel. In addition, you will receive a monetary incentive. The standard incentive is \$20.00 per day and a loaner vehicle, or \$50.00 per day with no loaner vehicle. Occasionally, however, a different incentive may be offered.

Are there any restrictions on my participation?

Yes. If you choose to accept a loaner vehicle as part of your participation in the program, a motor vehicle driving record check is mandatory. The insurance provider for the loaner vehicle fleet requires a driving record check for each individual who will be driving the loaner vehicle while it is in your possession. Insurance for the loaner vehicle is provided at no cost to you with a low deductible for damage (details are available). All individuals driving the loaner vehicle must be 24 years of age or older with no more than four points on their driving record. The driving record cannot show more than one accident and one moving violation or four moving violations in the past three years.

How long will the test program take?

The test program takes approximately 2 to 4 weeks. The length of time depends on the number of tests required and how many other vehicles are being tested.

Will my vehicle be mistreated in any way?

No, every aspect of the test program has been designed to duplicate everyday operation.

Exactly what will be done to my vehicle?

An underhood inspection will be performed on each vehicle. In some cases routine maintenance or repair may take place if required for testing. The vehicle is allowed to sit with the engine off for 12 to 36 hours so that it reaches the temperature of the test cell. This simulates overnight parking. Once the vehicle has reached the correct temperature, it is pushed onto a dynamometer, a type of treadmill for vehicles, that simulates typical driving conditions. A hose is connected to the exhaust pipe to collect the exhaust. A trained driver starts the vehicle and drives it through cycles that simulate suburban and urban driving. While the vehicle is running, the exhaust is collected for analysis. This analysis allows us to calculate the vehicle's exhaust emissions. Values for city and highway fuel economy are also calculated. Typically a vehicle will run through 3-4 of these test sequences.

Testing could also include driving your vehicle outside on specific routes with a portable emissions measuring system. This allows us to calculate emissions under real-life driving conditions.

How many miles will my vehicle be driven during the program?

Your vehicle will be driven approximately 300 odometer miles during the testing. The majority of these miles will be accumulated indoors on the dynamometer. A 10-minute road test might precede the dynamometer testing.

How will my vehicle be protected while in EPA's laboratory?

Your vehicle will be covered by insurance while it is in our possession. Your vehicle will be stored indoors while the majority of the testing is being conducted. If required to be parked outside, your vehicle will be located in a locked and secured area at the EPA National Vehicle and Fuels Emission Laboratory (NVFEL).

What happens to the information obtained from my vehicle?

The information collected as a result of this program is used to determine the emissions performance of in-use vehicles and its effect on air quality. The data from your vehicle is combined with data from other vehicles in this area in order to allow us to draw valid conclusions about the vehicle classes that we test.

How can I obtain the results from the testing of my vehicle?

If you request, we will send you the test results after the tests are completed and all the data has been processed.

What happens if my vehicle fails to meet any emission standards?

We expect that a certain portion of vehicles will fail to meet one or more of the emission standards. However, none of the information collected from this program will be used against individual vehicle owners.

How will my monetary incentive be calculated?

You will be offered \$20.00 per day and a loaner vehicle for every day your vehicle is at the National Vehicle and Fuels Emission Laboratory (NVFEL). If you do not want a loaner vehicle, you will be offered \$50.00 per day. The compensation will be based on whole days, beginning with the day your vehicle arrives. It will end one day after you are notified your car is ready for return. If you do not wish to provide your social security number, you have the option to cap the total incentive at \$599.

Who may participate?

Anyone, except employees of Jacobs (the contractor) or EPA, shall be eligible for consideration as a candidate vehicle owner for the above-mentioned program.