



## Repair and Replacement Assistance Program

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### What is AirCheck Texas?

Stricter vehicle emissions testing began in the mid-1990s for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area to improve air quality. On May 1, 2002, Denton and Collin counties joined Dallas and Tarrant counties in the emissions tests. These tests are now part of the required state inspection that is administered by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). On May 1, 2003 Rockwall, Parker, Kaufman, Ellis and Johnson counties also began their emissions testing. The reason for the new emissions tests is to help reduce air pollution from high-emitting vehicles that do not function properly.

### Who is affected/required to do the tests?

Gasoline vehicles ages 2 – 24 years old that are registered in the 9-county area of Dallas-Fort Worth are required to do the emissions tests.

### What if my vehicle failed the safety items?

The AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Assistance Program does not cover safety items. Vehicle owners will be responsible for repairing safety items at their own cost or they may try to qualify for a waiver from the Department of Public Safety. Please see [www.airchecktexas.com](http://www.airchecktexas.com) for more information.

### **What happens if my vehicle fails the emissions test?**

If a vehicle fails the emissions test, it must be repaired and retested before an inspection sticker can be issued.

### **Is there financial assistance for emissions repairs?**

Yes. Qualified individuals may be eligible to receive a voucher for emissions repairs up to \$600 through the AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Assistance Program.

### **How do I qualify for a repairs voucher?**

**Step 1.** A vehicle is inspected and if it fails the emissions test, the inspection facility gives a brochure to the vehicle owner and/or an application print out for AirCheck Texas.

**Step 2.** The vehicle owner must call the toll free number (**1-800-898-9103**) found in the brochure and on the print out to start the applications process.

**Step 3.** Information from the Vehicle Inspection Report is entered by the operator and is verified by the State electronically.

**Step 4.** If the vehicle is eligible for the program, then the applicant is required to submit a copy of the Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR), a completed and signed application and proof of income eligibility such as three months of pay stubs, tax return or other documentation. Please call **1-800-898-9103** for more information.

**Step 5.** If the income requirements are met and the proper documents are submitted, an emissions repairs voucher is generated along with a list of participating Recognized Emissions Repair Facilities for the vehicle owner.

**Step 6.** The vehicle must be taken to one of the repair facilities on the list to get a diagnostic test and estimate for repairs.

**Step 7.** If the recommended repairs are under \$600, the vehicle owner pays the required \$30 co-pay. The vehicle will be re-inspected by the repair facility and that fee will be included in the final invoice. All vehicles that are repaired under the AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Assistance Program must be re-inspected by the repair facility.

**Step 8.** If the recommended repairs are over \$600, the vehicle owner still pays the \$30 co-pay plus the amount over \$600. The vehicle will still need to be retested by the repair facility.

### **Can I do the repairs myself? Can I take my vehicle anywhere for repairs?**

No. All repairs must be performed by a Department of Public Safety (DPS) Recognized Emissions Repair Facility participating in the AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Program. Once you receive your repairs voucher, a list of these facilities will be provided to you. You must take your vehicle to one of these facilities.

### **What if I cannot pay the difference?**

You may opt to retire your vehicle and receive a replacement voucher for up to \$1000 towards the purchase of another vehicle. However, you are still required to have a diagnostic test done on the vehicle before the retirement process begins.

### **How can I qualify for a replacement voucher?**

After the decision is made for the vehicle to be retired, you must contact AirCheck Texas at **1-800-898-9103**. A retirement form will be mailed to you. Your vehicle must be driven on its own power to a salvage facility. You will have to surrender the title at that time.

The facility will fill out the form and sign it and give it back to you along with a receipt. The form and receipt will have to be submitted to AirCheck Texas before a replacement voucher can be generated. Then the replacement voucher will be mailed to you.

### **Where can I take the replacement voucher?**

AirCheck Texas has worked with area dealerships and individuals in the past. You may present this voucher to any dealership or individual selling a vehicle that is willing to work with the program or willing to accept the voucher. The seller of the vehicle will call the number on the voucher to receive additional instructions and information about AirCheck Texas.

### **What kind of vehicle can I purchase with the voucher?**

The vehicle you purchase must be 2-24 years old and have a current safety and emissions inspection sticker. Lease purchases are not eligible.

### **Why has the cost of the State inspection gone up?**

The safety test alone costs \$12.50. When adding on the emissions test the cost is \$25.50. Now that the vehicles are tested for safety, VOC, CO, CO2 and NOx, the cost of the test is capped at \$39.50. Inspection stations have the ability to reduce the price by offering specials or coupons.

### **Why isn't I/M required in all Texas counties?**

I/M is required in the nonattainment counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant counties per the Clean Air Act amendments.

### **I just heard about this program. Can I be reimbursed for repairs already done?**

No. Repairs are not reimbursable if performed before the vehicle and applicant are approved to participate in the AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Assistance Program. The program is designed to reimburse providers of good/services. Applicants must first be approved through the program before repairs may be authorized and eligible for reimbursement.

### **How can I be sure repair facilities are not over charging the State for repairing vehicles?**

Repair services are performed by Recognized Emissions Repair Facilities, offering expertise and equipment to perform emissions services and repairs. They are required to sign an agreement attesting that they use the same fee structure for participants as they do for all customers. Charges are monitored for inconsistency between customers and compared to industry standards.

### **What is stopping people from taking money from the State and using it to purchase other things?**

Financial assistance is offered through a voucher system. Reimbursements are made to the provider of goods and/or services. The participant does not receive money for repairs or replacement.

### **How can you prove that the AirCheck Texas program and/or Repair and Replacement Assistance Program are fixing cars/reducing pollution?**

The Texas Department of Public Safety maintains a database of all inspection tests performed. This information is combined with vehicle registration data maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). This comparison allows TxDOT to deny registration to any vehicle that does not have a current inspection – essentially forcing the vehicle owners to repair the vehicle.

**The State is forcing people to give up their cars and trucks.**

The AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement program is voluntary. The vehicle owner has the ultimate decision.

**Why is all the pollution clean up the responsibility of the vehicle owners? Why not test diesel trucks?**

Heavy-duty diesel vehicles also make a contribution to the emission reductions, but through other programs and initiatives.

**Isn't this program just taking from the rich and giving to the poor or taking tax dollars to repair individual vehicles?**

Counties are implementing a program that was created by the Texas Legislature. House Bill 2134 allowed money to be taken from the inspection fee to go towards the Repair and Replacement Assistance Program. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) determined the test cost ranges. Implementing the Repair and Replacement Assistance Program in DFW would not change the cost of the I/M test. Money not used for the Repair and Replacement Assistance Program must be returned to the State general fund. Therefore, either people are paying for a program to assist their neighbors and clean the air or they are possibly paying for people in other parts of the state to implement some type of non air quality related project that only benefits them – the people who didn't even contribute to the fund.

For information about the AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Program please call **1-800-898-9103**.