PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Air quality in Illinois has improved substantially since 1970 when Congress first passed the Clean Air Act, but air pollution remains a problem. In 1986, Illinois began the vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) program in Northeastern Illinois and Metro-East St. Louis to reduce air pollution and help these regions meet federal air quality standards. The I/M program identifies vehicles that need repairs due to malfunctions or poor maintenance which contribute to high emissions rates. Such repairs not only reduce air pollution, they often improve vehicle performance and fuel economy as well.

Motor vehicles are the largest source of air pollution in Illinois, and I/M is one of the most important tools for reducing smog and toxic air pollutants in particular. For example, I/M reduces emissions of smog-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 26 tons per day in Northeastern Illinois, which is equivalent to the emissions from 650,000 cars or 375 medium-sized factories. One study found that Illinois’ I/M program substantially reduces emissions of air toxins from automobiles, including 260 tons of benzene each year. Benzene is classified as a known human carcinogen.

AIR POLLUTION FACTS

I/M was established to reduce OZONE and CARBON MONOXIDE.

OZONE is created when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other air pollutants “cook” in sunlight. Ozone is a lung irritant that can cause labored breathing and aggravate asthma and other lung diseases. Children, senior citizens, and people with lung and heart diseases are most sensitive to ozone smog.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) inhibits the body’s ability to use oxygen. Faulty furnaces and stoves sometimes contribute to high levels of CO indoors. Outdoors, CO may reach concentrations that aggravate heart conditions.

I/M also reduces TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS that may contribute to cancer, immune system disorders, respiratory irritation and other health problems.

VOC reductions from the I/M program are equivalent to the emissions from 650,000 cars in Northeastern Illinois and 75,000 cars in Metro-East St. Louis.

ESTIMATED VEHICLE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS DUE TO I/M: 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOCs</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>BENZENE</th>
<th>VOCs</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>BENZENE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tons / Day Reduced</td>
<td>% Reduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern Illinois</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro-East St. Louis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VOCs = volatile organic compounds (including from hydrocarbons)
CO = carbon monoxide
* = not available
Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program

**TESTING NETWORK**

Thirty-five testing stations with a total of 139 testing lanes operate throughout the state. Most stations operate six days per week, ten hours per day Monday through Friday, and five hours on Saturday.

**Northeastern Illinois**
- Addison
- Aurora
- Bedford Park
- Chicago (8 Sites)
- Chicago Heights
- Crystal Lake
- Downers Grove
- Elk Grove Village
- Hillside
- Joliet
- Lincolnshire
- Markham
- Naperville
- Palatine
- Schaumburg
- Skokie
- South Elgin
- Streamwood
- Volo
- Waukegan
- Wheeling

**Southern Illinois**
- Belleville
- Collinsville
- Columbia
- East St. Louis
- Glen Carbon
- Pontoon Beach
- Wood River
- Glen Carbon

**GEOGRAPHICAL TESTING AREA**

The Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program is designed to help certain areas of the state meet air quality health standards by reducing pollution from vehicles registered in these counties. Approximately 2 million vehicle inspections are conducted each year in Illinois.

**TEST AREAS AND FACILITY LOCATIONS**

**MODEL YEARS TESTED**

1968 and newer vehicles are tested on a biennial basis (every two years) beginning with the fourth model year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle Year</th>
<th>Type of Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1968-1980</td>
<td>Idle test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-1995</td>
<td>Dynamometer or idle test *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996 and newer</td>
<td>On Board Diagnostic test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Heavy duty trucks and many four-wheel drive, all-wheel drive, and traction control vehicles will receive the idle test.

**EXEMPLARY VEHICLES**

- Vehicles less than 4 years old
- 1967 and older vehicles
- Vehicles registered as antique
- Diesel vehicles
- Farm vehicles
- Show cars
- Ceremonial vehicles
- Motorcycles
- Electric cars

**AGENCY OUTREACH**

**Customer Outreach**

Since inception of I/M, Illinois EPA has provided owners of failing vehicles with lists of repair facilities that have experience in performing successful emission repairs. For more information please call 800/635-2380 (Metro-East) or 847/758-3400 (Northeastern Illinois). You may also visit us at http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/vim.

**Industry Outreach**

Illinois EPA sponsors I/M training seminars designed to give automotive repair professionals tips and suggestions on how to repair vehicles that fail emissions tests. In addition, the Agency publishes a desk reference that helps automotive repair facilities understand and communicate the facts about the Illinois vehicle emissions inspection program to their customers and employees.

**DIESEL TRUCKS AND BUSES**

The Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois State Police conduct emissions tests for certain diesel trucks and buses. For more information on the diesel testing program, contact the Illinois Department of Transportation at 217/782-5597 or the Illinois State Police at 217/782-6267.