

# Features and Benefits of the



Illinois  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Bureau of Air  
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Springfield, IL 62794-9276

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## VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE (I/M) PROGRAM

### 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.



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.

### 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.

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.<sup>1</sup>

### ESTIMATED VEHICLE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS DUE TO I/M: 2002

	VOCs	CO	BENZENE	VOCs	CO	BENZENE
	Tons / Day Reduced			% Reduction		
Northeastern Illinois	26	389	0.7	12	14	22
Metro-East St. Louis	3	45	*	12	14	*

VOCs = volatile organic compounds (including from hydrocarbons)

CO = carbon monoxide

\* = not available

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

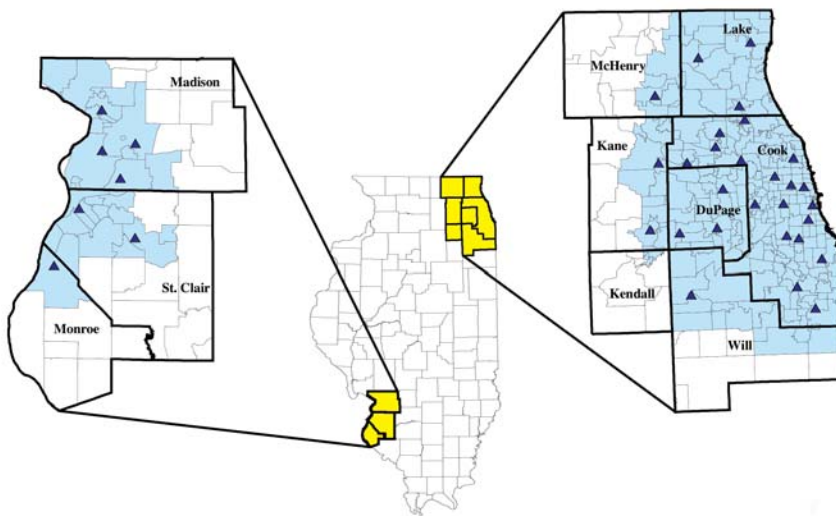
### Southern Illinois

Belleville	Columbia	Pontoon Beach
Collinsville	East St. Louis	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.

Vehicle Year	Type of Test
1968-1980	Idle test
1981-1995	Dynamometer or idle test *
1996 and newer	On Board Diagnostic test

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

## 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.

## EXEMPT 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

## 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.

<sup>1</sup>Air Toxics Benefits from Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Programs in Select U.S. cities. American Lung Association. October 2002.