

VEHICLE EMISSION INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE (I&M)

In September 2005 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) adopted rules to implement a state I&M program

(<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/mobilesource/vim/highlights.html>) in the Early Action Compact (EAC) for counties that requested to participate. Travis and Williamson counties, along with the cities of Austin and Round Rock requested that a revised I&M program be implemented in their jurisdictions. Travis and Williamson Counties also committed to administer associated Low Income Repair and Replacement Assistance Programs (LIRAP), per existing state rules. Commitments for continuation of both the I&M and LIRAP programs were renewed with the 8-O3 Flex.

In Travis and Williamson Counties, 827,155 initial emissions tests were performed from May 1, 2010, to April 30, 2011. The initial failure rate was 6.6%. The failure rate for the two-speed idle (TSI) test (1995 and earlier model year vehicles) was 8.1%, while the failure rate for the on-board diagnostic test (1996 and newer model year vehicles) was 5.6%. These numbers are consistent with the statistics from the previous 12-month period.

In the past fiscal year, Travis County redeemed 376 repair vouchers and 684 replacement vouchers. These figures represent a 49% increase in repair vouchers and a 30% increase in replacement vouchers from the previous year. Williamson County redeemed 79 repair vouchers and 141 replacement vouchers, representing a 12% decrease in repair vouchers and 38% decrease in replacement vouchers. Overall, there were 455 repair vouchers issued (33% increase) and 825 replacement vouchers issued in the region (8% increase).

Operating in tandem with the I&M program, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) manages a remote sensing program to help detect high emitters traveling in Travis and Williamson Counties. Between May 1, 2010, and April 30, 2011, 23,086 records were collected in EAC/8-O3 Flex area. Of those records, 728 (3.2%) did not meet the station standards. This is lower than the 3.8% rate the previous year. Seventeen vehicles qualified as high emitters of either Carbon Monoxide (CO) or Hydrocarbons (HC) or both. This represents 1 out of every 1,358 vehicles is a high emitter. While this is a higher rate than last year (1 out of every 2,240 vehicles), the difference is not statistically significant. DPS mailed 7 notices to owners of high-emitting vehicles.

The remote sensing data also indicate that there has been an increase in the portion of drivers in the area who live (or whose vehicles are registered) in counties that are not subject to I&M programs (8.5% in 2010/2011 versus 6.8% in 2009/2010). While for most of the counties, the percentage of vehicles recorded that did not meet station standards was higher than the percentage of vehicles in Travis and Williamson County, where the I&M program is in place, there was not a statistically significant difference for any county except Milam. Of the 102 vehicles recorded from Milam County, 8.82% failed to meet the standards, much higher than the 3.49% that failed to meet standards in Travis County and 2.34% that failed to meet standards in Williamson County. These data suggest that in the future, more effort might need to be put into ensuring that people who live in non-I&M counties who commute into Travis or Williamson Counties more than sixty days per year are getting emissions tests, as required by the I&M rule.

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL TESTS	% TOTAL TESTS	INITIAL TESTS (IT)	IT FAIL	% IT FAIL	INITIAL RETESTS (IR)	IR FAIL	OTHER RETESTS (OR)	OR FAIL
OVERALL TESTS	912,377	100.0%	827,155	80,918	9.8%	74,659	8,972	10,563	3,172
EMISSION TESTS	912,377	100.0%	827,155	54,457	6.6%	74,659	8,335	10,563	3,062
OBDII	834,363	91.4%	761,231	42,654	5.6%	64,773	6,634	8,359	2,144
TAILPIPE	78,014	8.6%	65,924	5,346	8.1%	9,886	1,509	2,204	877
ASM	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0
TSI	78,014	100.0%	65,924	5,346	8.1%	9,886	1,509	2,204	877
GASCAP	912,377	100.0%	827,155	8,128	1.0%	74,659	317	10,563	89
SAFETY TESTS	910,760	99.8%	825,753	33,210	4.0%	74,503	1,018	10,504	240

Inspection & Maintenance Statistics for the Austin Area from May 2010 through April 2011