Continued Failures

If your vehicle continues to fail the test, you have several options to consider as outlined below.

APPLY FOR A WAIVER

You may qualify for one of two repair waivers. When granted, a waiver allows you to register your vehicle for two years or until your next scheduled E✓Check test, whichever comes first. The waiver provides the owner more time to make any additional repairs to get the vehicle in tune, so that it will pass the test in the next cycle. To obtain a waiver, **take your vehicle and all emissions-related repair receipts to one of the 23 Full-Service E✓Check stations.** Visit the Ohio E✓Check website **www.ohioecheck.org** for a list of locations. Your vehicle must meet all of the following conditions:

Conditional Pass Waiver

Failed emissions readings on vehicles 1995 and older (OBD II vehicles are not eligible for this waiver) must improve by at least 30 percent, and all emissions readings that initially passed must pass again, including the tampering and evaporative inspections. At least $200 must be spent on emissions-related repairs, not including tampering repairs.

Present the vehicle and all repair receipts to the E✓Check station manager. Original itemized receipts will be accepted for repairs performed up to 60 days before the vehicle's first failed test. The vehicle will be inspected to verify the repairs have been performed. **Waivers are not transferable to a new owner.**

Repair Cap Waiver

You may qualify for a repair cap waiver once $300 has been spent on emissions repairs, regardless of emissions improvement levels. Bring original itemized receipts for emissions-related parts or repairs to one of the 23 Full-Service E✓Check stations and have your vehicle retested. If your vehicle fails again, you may receive a certificate allowing you to register your vehicle. The repair cap waiver excludes the cost for repairs that are the result of tampering with the emissions control systems, such as modifying or removing the catalytic converter. If you repair the vehicle yourself, or work is not done by a legitimate repair facility, only the cost of parts may be applied toward the waiver. When granted, a waiver allows you to register your motor vehicle for two years or your next scheduled E✓Check test, whichever comes first. **Waivers are not transferable to a new owner.**

HARDSHIP EXTENSION

Low-income motorists may be eligible for a six-month hardship extension to bring a vehicle into compliance with the E✓Check program standards. Owners of vehicles failing due solely to a gas cap problem do not qualify for an extension and the gas cap must be repaired or replaced. To qualify for a hardship extension, you must bring the following items to one of the 23 Full-Service E✓Check stations or an Ohio EPA office along with a completed Hardship Extension Application showing that the household income is below 150% of the federal poverty level. Hardship Extension Applications are available at every E✓Check station, Ohio EPA offices and at **www.ohioecheck.org.**

- The Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) from the E✓Check station showing that the vehicle failed the test; **and**
- A copy of the vehicle's current registration, Ohio title **OR** Application for Renewal Registration by Mail notice; **and**
- A written estimate totaling $75 or more for emissions-related vehicle repairs **and/or** diagnostic costs from a legitimate repair facility.

The hardship extension is only available one time per vehicle.

Hardship extensions can also be processed by mailing the application and additional required documents to one of the Ohio EPA offices (see application for address).

TIPS FOR OWNERS OF FAILED VEHICLES

- Look for an E✓Check licensed repair facility to perform your repairs. Their certified repair technicians have received special training in emissions repairs.
- Find out what type of guarantee the repair facility offers.
- Provide the repair facility with a copy of the VIR and other paperwork (Tech Tips) issued when the vehicle failed.
- Keep the VIR and all original repair receipts.
- If you have any questions, call the Ohio E✓Check hotline at **1-800-CAR-TEST (1-800-227-8378).**
- You also may visit the E✓Check Website: **www.ohioecheck.org**

Ohio E✓Check
Vehicle Emissions Testing Program

A NOTE ABOUT TAMPERING

If your vehicle is missing a catalytic converter and was manufactured with one, your car has been tampered with and will fail the test. In most cases, it is a federal and state offense to remove a catalytic converter from an automobile.

If your vehicle does not have a gas cap and requires one, it will not pass the E✓Check test. Be certain that your vehicle has both a gas cap (if required) and a catalytic converter prior to bringing your vehicle to an E✓Check station.

REV. 8-7-2012

Ohio E✓Check Repairing A FAILED VEHICLE

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR VEHICLE FAILS THE E✓CHECK TEST

a commitment to clean air

Ohio E✓Check
Vehicle Emissions Testing Program

For more information, scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit our website. Our new website provides details on the specific type of tests that are performed at each location along with driving directions from your current location.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
1.800.CAR.TEST
www.ohioecheck.org
www.ohioecheck.info

What to do if your vehicle fails the E✓Check test

E✓Check helps protect public health by identifying motor vehicles that are polluting the air.

If your vehicle failed the E✓Check test, it is emitting high levels of pollution. It is important for all vehicles in E✓Check areas to run cleanly in order to reduce levels of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides—major components in ground-level ozone and air pollution. In addition to cleaning the air, repairing your vehicle will make it run more efficiently and improve fuel economy. It is important for you to complete necessary repairs and have the vehicle tested before you renew the vehicle's registration.

To have your vehicle repaired, you have several options:

1. Select a repair shop from the list of E✓Check licensed repair facilities with certified technicians. It will be provided for your convenience. These technicians have completed training recommended by Ohio EPA and are qualified to diagnose and repair emissions-related failures; or,
2. Select a repair technician of your choice; or
3. Perform the vehicle repairs yourself.

If the vehicle continues to fail after it has been repaired, you may qualify for a waiver which will allow you to register your vehicle. This brochure explains how to apply for a waiver.

Step 1: Review the Vehicle Inspection Report

At the completion of your test, the lane inspector gave you a Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) that provided information about your vehicle's test results. Below the box in the upper right hand corner marked FINAL RESULT is a column marked INDIVIDUAL TEST RESULTS. This is where you will find a description of your vehicle's emissions failures. This information will be helpful to your repair technician.

There are five types of failures that could prevent your vehicle from passing an E✓Check test. They are:

- **Tampering Failure** – This failure results when a vehicle does not have a gas cap (if it was originally equipped with one) or catalytic converter. In OBD II vehicles, 1996 and newer gas-powered vehicles (1997 or newer diesel-fueled vehicles), if the Data Link Connector (DLC) is damaged, missing or covered up by an aftermarket vehicle modification (trailer brake, infant seat, etc.), the vehicle will fail due to tampering.
- **Emissions Failure** – This failure occurs on tailpipe tests on 1995 and older gasoline-powered vehicles when excessive levels of one or more pollutants are emitted from your vehicle. The pollutants measured during the test are:
    - Carbon Monoxide (CO) – An odorless, colorless, harmful gas produced by improper fuel combustion in the engine.
    - Hydrocarbons (HC) – Formed when fuel leaves the engine without being fully burned. HC combines with other pollutants to form harmful ground-level ozone.
    - Nitrogen/Oxygen compounds (NOx) – A harmful vehicle exhaust emission that is produced when engine combustion temperatures run high. NOx combines with other pollutants to form harmful ground-level ozone.
- **On-board Diagnostics Failure** – This failure results when the on-board diagnostic computer (OBD II) on a 1996 or newer gas-powered vehicle (1997 or newer diesel-fueled vehicle) reports that there are certain emissions control components or engine operating conditions that require repair or maintenance to ensure effective emissions control and fuel economy. In this case, the Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) will list the Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTCs) that relate to the specific emissions component(s) causing the system failure.
- **Evaporative System Failure** – This failure occurs when a gas cap does not maintain the required pressure to prevent evaporative emissions from escaping the fuel tank.
- **Opacity Failure (diesel vehicles only)** – If a diesel-powered vehicle emits a thick, black smoke, it fails this portion of the test.

Step 2: Consult a Repair Technician

You were provided with a list of licensed E✓Check repair facilities to help you identify a repair technician who has completed specialized training to repair emissions failures. Licensed facilities have the required equipment to help the technician diagnose emissions-related problems. However, you are not required to select one of the licensed repair technicians to repair your vehicle. Make sure you provide your technician with a copy of the paperwork you received from the testing station—**Vehicle Inspection Report** and **Tech Tips** (green flyer for OBD vehicles). These documents contain important information to help your technician diagnose and repair your vehicle's emissions issues.

Warranty Coverage – Federal law requires that the emissions control systems on 1995 and newer model year vehicles be warranted for a minimum of two years or 24,000 miles. Warranty coverage for the on-board computer and catalytic converter (only) is extended to eight years or 80,000 miles for these same vehicles. Many automakers provide extended warranty coverage beyond that required by law. Depending on the model year, emissions system repairs may be covered by the manufacturer. Consult your vehicle's warranty documents or your auto dealer for more information.

Step 3: Have Your Vehicle Repaired

Your repair technician will diagnose the cause of the failure and perform appropriate repairs. It is important for you to obtain an **itemized receipt for all repair charges, parts and/or labor** incurred to repair your vehicle. Those who perform their own repairs should keep receipts for all emissions-related parts. These receipts are required and will be validated by an inspection of your vehicle prior to the issuance of a waiver or extension.

Step 4: Return Your Vehicle to an E✓Check Station for a Retest

Take your vehicle back to an E✓Check station along with the VIR from the initial failed test. If your vehicle passes, you can renew your vehicle registration. If your vehicle does not pass the second test, you should follow steps one through four again.