

# City of Memphis

## Motor Vehicle Inspection

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **What is the Vehicle Inspection Program?**

The program consists of an annual Safety Inspection, On Board Diagnostic II test, or Tailpipe Emissions test depending on the vehicle model year. The **On Board Diagnostic II** test downloads the emission related codes store from the vehicle's computer and verifies the proper operation of the vehicle. The **Tailpipe emissions analyzer** measures the vehicle's tailpipe emissions and compares the results to Environmental Protection Agency emission standards. All vehicles are inspected for safety. During the **Safety inspection** the safety components are visually inspected for compliance and a pass/fail certificate is issued upon completion of the inspection.

#### **What laws govern vehicle inspection in Memphis?**

Memphis City Code of Ordinance Chapter 21, Tennessee Code Annotated 55-4-128 and 55-17-126.

#### **When should your vehicle be inspected?**

The City of Memphis ordinance requires an annual inspection for all vehicles registered within the City limits. Inspections can be performed up to three months (90 days) prior to the registration renewal or tag expiration.

#### **What items are inspected on the vehicle?**

Emissions	Emergency Brakes
Headlights	Side Glass
Windshield	Windshield Wipers
Tail Lights	Brake Lights
Turn Signals	Exhaust System
Rearview Mirrors	Tail light lens
Window tint	

#### **What vehicles are exempt from vehicle inspection?**

Effective January 1, 2011, the first four model years of private citizen vehicles are exempt from inspection. Example 2011, 2010, 2009, and 2008 vehicles for 2011.

#### **What Vehicles must be inspected for emissions?**

- 1996 and new gasoline powered vehicles less than 26,000 pounds (Gross Vehicle Weight) are inspected for On Board Diagnostic II.
- 2002 and new diesel powered vehicles less than 26,000 pounds. (Gross Vehicle Weight) are inspected for On Board Diagnostic II.
- 1995 and older gasoline powered vehicles less than 26,000 pounds. (Gross Vehicle Weight) are inspected for tailpipe emissions.
- Vehicles registered in Memphis
  - Used auto dealers vehicles
- Registration transfers
- Government vehicles
- Federal employees' private vehicles operating in Memphis

#### **What vehicles are exempt from emissions inspection?**

- Vehicles more than 26,000 pounds
- Electric powered vehicles
- Farm equipment vehicles

### **What documentation is necessary for inspection?**

No documentation is necessary for inspection but a valid Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) plate must be attached to the vehicle.

### **What should I do after I pass inspection?**

Mail or take the Vehicle Inspection Report to the Shelby County Clerk's office to obtain tags and registration. You also may renew online at <https://renewals.shelbycountyttn.gov/OnlineRenewals/>

### **What happens if I fail inspection?**

The vehicle must be repaired and then re-inspected. An Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) mechanic or repair facility may assist you with the repairs.

### **Do I have a grace period if I fail Inspection?**

The Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) 55-4-128 grants a thirty-day grace period to registered vehicle owner's if their vehicle fails the on board diagnostic II or tailpipe emissions testing. The grace period begins on the expiration date of the registration. **Note: This does not apply to safety failures.**

### **How much does the inspection cost?**

There is no on-site fee for inspection.

### **What happens if my vehicle is emitting smoke from the tailpipe?**

Smoking vehicles are not allowed in the inspection stations and will not be inspected. City and State air pollution laws prohibit the operation of smoking vehicles on the streets.

### **Why may a vehicle be denied inspection?**

- Smoking vehicle
- Faulty exhaust system
- Overheating vehicle
- Vehicle idle out of specifications.
- No vehicle identification number.
- Pets in the vehicle
- Overheating vehicle
- Vehicle losing fluids
- Readiness codes not set for on board diagnostic II vehicles (For information read **“Is Your Vehicle Ready”** under the On Board Diagnostic II link on MVIB home page.)

### **Where can recreation vehicles and large trucks get inspected?**

Vehicles over 9,000 lbs., this includes buses, RV's, large trucks, dual wheel vehicles, etc. must be inspected at 590 Washington Avenue location on lane 3 or 2355 Appling City Cove on lanes 5 and 6.

### **Is an inspection required for motorcycles?**

Yes, an annually safety inspection is required for motorcycles.

### **What items are inspected on motorcycles?**

- Vehicle Identification Number
- Turn Signals
- Stop Lights
- Headlights
- Hand Brakes
- Foot Brakes
- Muffler/exhaust

**Are the hours for motorcycle and vehicle inspection the same?**

No, motorcycle inspection hours are 9 am – 11 am and 2 pm – 4pm.

**What phone number can I call to get additional information?**

Main Station - 590 Washington Avenue – (901) 528-2904

East Station – 2355 Appling City Cove – (901) 636-2947