Why vehicle emission testing?
The federal Clean Air Act spells out air quality standards that all areas of the United States must meet. Motor vehicles are one of the major sources of air pollutants in metropolitan areas. Vehicle exhaust emissions include nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. Vehicle testing assures that in-use vehicle emissions are within specified standards.

Why is emission testing required in southeastern Wisconsin?
Southeastern Wisconsin is one of more than 40 metropolitan areas in the United States with ground-level ozone levels that exceed federal air quality standards. Excessive air pollution is a public health hazard. Geographically, as part of the south Lake Michigan air basin, southeastern Wisconsin is one of the worst areas in the country for ozone pollution.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Vehicle Inspection Program (WIVIP) is to:

• identify vehicles that exceed exhaust and evaporative emissions
• prevent registration until vehicles meet emissions standards

Who sets emission standards?
The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sets the emissions standards for vehicles. DMV administers the Vehicle Inspection Program.

What vehicles require testing?
Vehicles kept in the following seven counties of southeastern Wisconsin are subject to emissions testing: Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha.

Model years 1996-2006 with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) < 8,501 lbs. require testing. (Gasoline only)

Model years 2007 and newer up to 14,000 GVWR require testing. (Diesel and gasoline)

Motorcycles are exempt from emissions testing.

Who does the testing and what does it cost?
The DMV contracts with Opus Inspection to manage the network of about 200 Private Inspection Facilities (PIFs). The DMV audits test equipment at facility regularly to assure accurate testing. There is no direct charge to the motorist for the required test.

When are vehicles tested?
Vehicles are tested biennially based upon vehicle model year. The testing is required at the time of vehicle registration renewal. Renewal notices indicate if testing is required.

Additionally, vehicles more than 5 model years old are required to be tested at the time of change of ownership. DMV mails a letter outlining the testing requirements to the new owner.

Where are vehicles tested?
There are approximately 200 Private Inspection Facilities (PIFs) located throughout southeastern Wisconsin.
How is the test performed?

When motorists enter the test facility, the lane inspector asks for the registration renewal notice and enters essential information into a computer.

Vehicles then receive an on-board diagnostic (OBDII) test, which checks the vehicle’s on board diagnostic system rather than measuring tailpipe emissions.

After the emission inspection, motorists receive results on a computer-generated report form. This report contains the results of the emissions test.

When vehicles pass the vehicle inspection, the owner may complete the registration by mail, at the emission test facility, with a Third Party Agent authorized by the Department or in person at a DMV Service Center, or online. The computer automatically matches test records from the inspection stations with the DMV’s registration records to verify inspection compliance.

What happens to vehicles which fail?

If a vehicle fails the test, the owner must have emission-related repairs performed prior to being retested. Satisfactory completion of the test requirements is necessary before vehicle registration renewal. The inspector provides all motorists with printed information at the initial failed test to explain the repair and retest process.

For more information contact:

I/M Customer Service Representatives at (866) OBD-TEST ((866) 623-8378)
or
www.wisconsinvip.org