

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, 854,133 initial emissions tests were performed from May 1, 2012, to April 30, 2013, with a failure rate of 6.5% - down slightly from the 6.6% initial failure rate during the previous reporting period. The failure rate for the two-speed idle (TSI) test (1995 and earlier model year vehicles) was 8.7% (up from 8.6% the year before), while the failure rate for the on-board diagnostic test (1996 and newer model year vehicles) was 5.4% (down from 5.5% the year before). A summary of the I/M tests conducted in the area is provided in the table below. There were 171 waivers issued during this period out of 55,899 vehicles that failed an emissions test, accounting for 0.31% of the total failing vehicles.

Inspection and Maintenance Statistics for the Austin Area, May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL TESTS	% TOTAL TESTS	INITIAL TESTS (IT)	IT FAIL	% IT FAIL	INITIAL RETESTS (IR)	IR FAIL	OTHER RETESTS (OR)	OR FAIL
EMISSION TESTS	944,315	100.0%	854,133	55,888	6.5%	80,127	7,770	10,055	2,947
OBDII	890,730	94.3%	809,809	43,721	5.4%	72,701	6,372	8,220	2,138
TAILPIPE	53,585	5.7%	44,324	3,851	8.7%	7,426	1,159	1,835	777
ASM	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0
TSI	53,585	100.0%	44,324	3,851	8.7%	7,426	1,159	1,835	777
GASCAP	944,315	100.0%	854,133	10,111	1.2%	80,127	368	10,055	91

While some funding for the LIRAP program still exists, it has been cut by 87.5% from the previous biennium. As a result, both Travis and Williamson Counties have shifted from replacement vouchers to repair vouchers.

In the recently concluded 83rd Texas Legislature, lawmakers reinstated full funding for LIRAP for Travis and Williamson Counties specifically. This funding should enable the program to continue and be used significantly beyond what it has been for the last two years.

The remote sensing data collected from May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013, showed 97.3% of the vehicles subject to the remote sensing had tailpipe emissions below the cutpoints set by the Texas Department of Public Safety, which operates the program. A vehicle is defined as failing a station standard if its measured tailpipe emissions exceed cutpoints for carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, or nitrogen oxide, regardless of model year. Vehicles registered in Travis County and Williamson County had a slightly lower failure rate (2.67%) than the failure rate for vehicles registered in non-I/M counties. Of the 53,954 vehicles subjected to the remote sensing, only 28 vehicles (0.05%) had emissions above the cutpoints for NOX.