

Exhaust Notes

VOLUME 3 NO. 1 – PUBLICATION NUMBER 13-02-005

SPRING 2013

CONTENTS

Testing Equipment Available	1
Training Spotlight	2
OBDII Test Concerns	3
Ecology Contacts	4

Testing Equipment Now Available

State law authorizes emission testing by a state contractor and other businesses through 2019.

As of this newsletter's publication five automotive repair shops have become authorized test facilities. More are in the process of obtaining testing equipment.

To become an Authorized Testing Facility you will need to:

- Obtain testing equipment from the state contractor.



- Have garage liability/ garage keeper's insurance.

For more information contact.WAATF@Applus.com or call 253-395-1177.

- Have a dedicated internet and electrical power connection for the testing equipment. Additional site modifications may be required.

A Few Friendly Reminders

Automotive Emission Specialists in Ecology's Emission Check program carry out high quality diagnostics and repairs. They also follow protocol to assist customers in the waiver process.

With the recent changes it's possible to overlook some program rules and regulations. Here are some friendly reminders:

- Always sign the Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR), even if the customer spent less than the full \$150. Sign the VIR even if the vehicle has been tampered with. An AES who performs any diagnosis or repairs must sign the VIR.
- Repair Orders must include detailed diagnoses and recommended repairs.

- Repair Orders must include the customer's name, address, phone number, license plate and VIN.
- Notify Ecology when relocating shops.
- Vehicles can now fail for manufacturer-specific codes.
- Only appropriate repairs that cause an emission failure may be applied to the waiver amount.
- Never tamper with a vehicle. The AES is required to document any missing or inoperable emission control components.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the Emission Check Program.

Visit emissiontestwa.com for station wait time information and vehicle test history.



Training Spotlight

Keep Your Authorization Current

Interested in becoming an Authorized Emission Specialist? Is it time to update your AES training? If so, these instructors offer Ecology-authorized training.

Contact instructors for class availability and cost.

Clark County

Milt Stoddard
cmiltons@msn.com
 Cell: 360-798-8224

King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties

Nolan Koreski — Lake Washington Technical College
Nolan.koreski@LWTech.edu
 425-739-8352

Jerald Peterson — Lake Washington Technical College
jerry.peterson@LWTech.edu
 253-381-3193

Michael Richmond — Lake Washington Technical College
Michael.Richmond@LWTech.edu
 425-739-8428

Don Sutherland — Lake Washington Technical College
don.sutherland@LWTech.edu
 425-739-8334

Fred Donaldson — Green River Community College
fdonaldson@auburn.wednet.edu
freddonaldson@comcast.net
 253-709-1850

Karl Hoffman — Green River Community College
khoffman@greenriver.edu
 253-833-9111 Ext. 4253

Howard Anderson — South Seattle Community College
howie66not@hotmail.com
howieZinstruction@gmail.com
 206-883-7946

Gary Neill — Renton Technical College
gneill@RTC.edu
 425-235-5824

Brian Thompson
fiftyfivetbird@comcast.net

Kenneth Wright — Renton Technical College/Independent
AP.KEN@Juno.com
 425-226-1680

Ed Schaplow
eschap@allview.com
 206-755-9611

Glenn Turner
GTUR461@Hotmail.com
 206-331-1830

Fred Wilson
fred@high-road.com
 206-755-6657 cell
 206-789-7521 shop

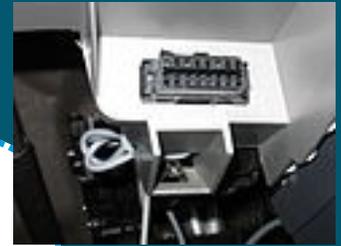
Spokane County

Brad Templeton
 509-535-2546

Remember, you must take an Ecology-authorized training every two years to stay in the AES program.

If you have questions about training, please contact emission check staff listed for your county on page 4.

OBDII Test Concerns



No Communication Failure

When Washington started performing OBDII tests, a vehicle did not fail if the test station's scanner could not communicate with the vehicle's computer. The test station would sometimes conduct a tailpipe test. Or the vehicle was simply rejected as un-testable — a frustrating circumstance for any vehicle owner.

An un-testable result is not a “pass” and not quite a “fail,” which causes a lot of confusion. Defaulting to a tailpipe test is no longer an option. Therefore, a failure to communicate now constitutes a test failure.

The AES plays a key role in diagnosing vehicles that fail for no communications. Of course, emission-related repairs without specific codes present a challenge to the AES. Fortunately, an AES

can use several techniques to repair the loss of communication between the DLC and OBD scanner.

The number 1 reason a vehicle fails for no communication is a problem with voltage or ground.

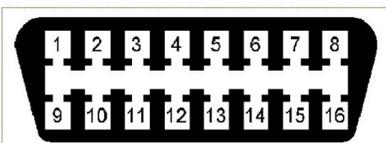
The problem could be as simple as a blown fuse for the DLC. Checking the fuse for the DLC before beginning more extensive diagnosis can save hours of labor. However, an underlying issue that caused the fuse to blow in the first place may need further diagnosis.

Another source of no communication is aftermarket radios. It may be surprising to find out that many an aftermarket radio installation has been spliced into or cut the power or ground wire for the DLC.

If the AES is not fortunate enough to find a simple blown fuse or an aftermarket radio installation to be the problem, specific pins in the DLC are the next place to check. Missing, broken, or open connections at pins numbered 4, 5, or 16 interfere with OBD testing.

Pin 16 is battery voltage, pin 4 is chassis ground, and pin 5 is sensor ground. After making sure enough voltage is available at pin 16, checking pin 4 and 5 for a good ground connection is the next step.

A vehicle's DLC can be difficult to reach. Using a breakout box such as an AES LineSpi can help. A breakout box also enables the AES to work on the DLC with less risk of damaging delicate pins.



PIN	DESCRIPTION	PIN	DESCRIPTION
1	Vendor Option	9	Vendor Option
2	J1850 Bus +	10	j1850 BUS
3	Vendor Option	11	Vendor Option
4	Chassis Ground	12	Vendor Option
5	Signal Ground	13	Vendor Option
6	CAN (J-2234) High	14	CAN (J-2234) Low
7	ISO 9141-2 K-Line	15	ISO 9141-2 Low
8	Vendor Option	16	Battery Power

OBD-II Connector and Pinout

The diagram on the left shows the pin position on a vehicle's OBD connector. It shows the most common generic communication protocols.

OBD Fraud Now Easier To Detect

Due to improvements in test equipment and software, tampered vehicles that once eluded detection now fail an OBD test. Use of equipment to circumvent the testing process is

against the law. Use of equipment designed for off-road use in vehicles intended for on-road use, is also against the law.

If a customer brings you a vehicle that has failed because of vehicle

tampering, the only fix is returning the vehicle to stock condition. A tampered vehicle is not eligible for a waiver—no exceptions.

**Washington State
Department of Ecology**

Department of Ecology
Air Quality Program
PO Box 77755
Olympia, WA 98504

Phone: 360-407-6330
Fax: 360-407-0287
E-mail: melanie.forster@ecy.wa.gov



To conserve resources, we provide this
newsletter in an electronic-only
format. Please consider the
environment when printing this
newsletter.

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Air Quality Program at 360-407-6800. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

Ecology's Emission Check Staff

Clark County

Tom Jones
360-690-7163
thomas.jones@ecy.wa.gov

Rachael O'Malley
360-690-7165
rachael.omalley@ecy.wa.gov

King and Snohomish County

Dave Adler
425-649-7267
david.adler@ecy.wa.gov

John Dillon
425-649-7198
john.dillon@ecy.wa.gov

Mat Kwartin
425-649-7113
mathew.kwartin@ecy.wa.gov

Kerry Swayne
425-649-7101
kerry.swayne@ecy.wa.gov

Pierce County

Art Betts
360-407-0244
arthur.betts@ecy.wa.gov

Melanie Forster
360-407-6330
melanie.forster@ecy.wa.gov

Fritz Merkl
360-407-6333
fritz.merkl@ecy.wa.gov

Spokane County

Paula Dunlap
509-329-3530
paula.dunlap@ecy.wa.gov

Dave Pavlin
509-329-3487
david.pavlin@ecy.wa.gov

Mattias Brischle
509-329-3467
mattias.brischle@ecy.wa.gov



Emission Check 
You're on the Road to Cleaner Air.