

## Qualifying for a test exemption

In 2005, an incentive was established to encourage good vehicle maintenance by giving diesel HDV operators the opportunity to have their vehicles tested every two years instead of annually.

## How the test exemption works

To qualify for an exemption, a diesel HDV must register a 20 per cent or lower opacity reading when the particulate matter is measured in its exhaust. Vehicles that register over 20 per cent opacity will still require annual tests.

In 2006, the exemption is available to even-model-year vehicles that achieve an opacity reading of 20 per cent or less on their last *Drive Clean* test. In 2007, the exemption is available to odd-model-year vehicles.

The following table shows the calendar years when diesel HDVs require testing and the years when they may be exempt.

Calendar year	Even model years	Odd model years
2006	May be exempt	Test required
2007	Test required	May be exempt
2008	May be exempt	Test required

Test results are recorded in the provincial vehicle registration database. If your vehicle qualifies for an exemption, there will not be a requirement for a new test when you receive your vehicle licence renewal, provided that the vehicle meets all other conditions. You will still receive an information insert on the HDV emissions program with your vehicle licence renewal information. When you renew your registration, please bring your last *Drive Clean* pass report with you to assist with the vehicle registration process.

The test exemption is not available to heavy-duty non-diesel vehicles, which continue to require annual tests.



## Test Validity

A *Drive Clean* pass is valid for one year from the date of issue for registration renewal or ownership transfer, unless the vehicle qualifies for the HDV incentive. Then the pass may be used for up to two years to allow for renewal in the exemption year. It must be valid on the expiry date of the licence plate, but for a late renewal or for an ownership transfer it must be valid on the date of the transaction.

## Important facts

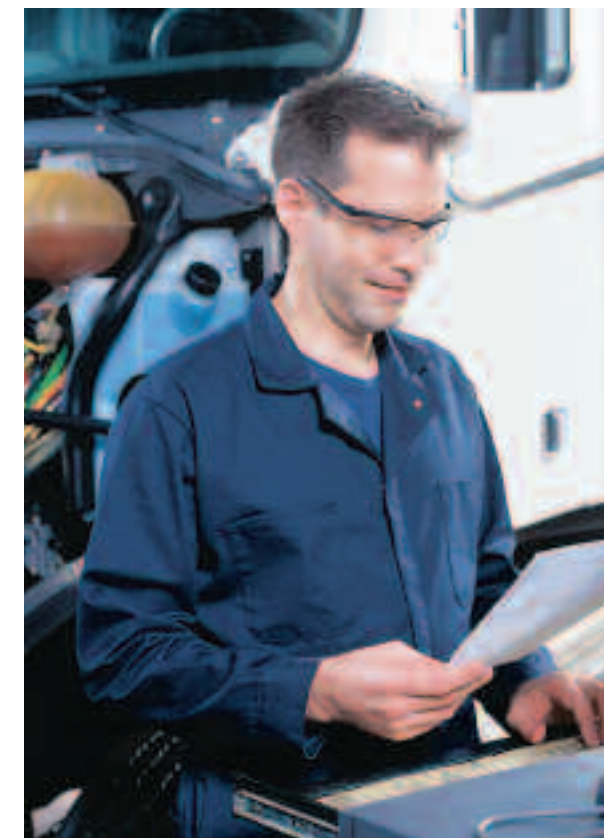
- The increase in the age exemption for registration renewal from three years to five years for the first emissions test applies to all vehicles in the *Drive Clean* program.
- HDV test fees will continue to be set at market rate by test facilities.
- There is no age exemption for older HDVs.
- For licensing heavy-duty resale vehicles, model years 2005 and earlier require an emissions test in 2006 and model years 2006 in 2007.

## The Smog Patrol

Ontario's Smog Patrol (the Vehicle Emissions Enforcement Unit of the Ministry of the Environment) conducts random inspections to identify and ticket grossly polluting vehicles or those with emissions control equipment that has been tampered with or removed. This includes both heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles.

## Idling can be costly

Unnecessary idling of diesel HDVs harms our health and our environment. Turning off the engine whenever possible saves fuel and reduces vehicle maintenance costs. Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) estimates that an idling diesel engine uses between one and four litres of fuel per hour, depending on the size of the engine, idle speed and other factors. According to NRCAN, an engine idling for one hour pollutes as much as two hours of driving the same vehicle.



Ontario's *Drive Clean*



## Drive Clean's heavy-duty vehicle program

Test exemptions increase for newer vehicles





## Testing now begins when vehicles are five years old

Two additional newer model years of heavy-duty trucks and buses are exempt from *Drive Clean* emissions testing for registration renewal, effective January 1, 2006.

Emissions testing now begins when heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) are five years old instead of three.

For registration renewal:

- 2003 model year vehicles will need their first emissions test in 2008, rather than 2006.

- 2004 model year vehicles will need their first test in 2009, rather than 2007.
- The test schedule for five-year-old and older vehicles is unchanged: 2001 model year and older vehicles require a test for renewals due in 2006, and 2002 model year and older vehicles require a test for renewals due in 2007.

There are no changes to the heavy-duty diesel vehicle incentive program or to the requirements for transfer of ownership of vehicles.

The changes to *Drive Clean* recognize that harmful emissions from heavy-duty trucks and buses are being reduced due to new technology, cleaner fuels and owners and operators who keep their vehicles well maintained.

Diesel trucks and buses registered in Ontario are subject to emissions test standards that are among the strictest in North America. And increasing numbers of vehicles with newer technologies are meeting or surpassing those standards.

## Particulate matter in our air

Diesel emissions standards are based on opacity readings, which indicate the particulate matter (PM) in the exhaust of diesel HDVs. Opacity measures the amount of visible light that is blocked by exhaust smoke during a snap acceleration test. PM, a major component of smog, is damaging to our health and environment. It is emitted by diesel vehicles

largely as a result of unburned fuel. Diesel HDVs contribute over 50 per cent of the PM from on-road transportation sources, of which about 90 per cent is microscopic PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

These microscopic particles are readily absorbed by the human respiratory system. PM is linked to asthma and respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. Children and the elderly are among those most susceptible to its effects. In addition, incomplete fuel combustion also generates environmentally damaging greenhouse gases.



## Diesel emissions standards

When the program began in 1999, *Drive Clean* applied opacity standards in line with other jurisdictions in North America: 40 per cent for 1991 and newer model years, and 55 per cent for 1990 and earlier models.

Since then, standards have been tightened twice, on April 1, 2004 and again on April 1, 2005. The current standards are 30 per cent for 1991 and newer model vehicles and 40 per cent for 1990 and older vehicles. Emissions standards for light-duty vehicles have also been tightened twice since the program began.

## School bus standards

To help protect children from harmful diesel emissions, large diesel school buses must meet the more stringent of the two standards in place for diesel HDVs. As of April 1, 2005, all school buses must meet the 30 per cent opacity standard, regardless of the age of the vehicle.



For more information on Ontario's *Drive Clean*, call:  
**1-888-758-2999**  
or visit  
**www.driveclean.com**

