



250 William Howard Taft Rd.
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SouthwestOhioAir.org

ANTI-TAMPERING INSPECTION PROGRAM WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



ANTI-TAMPERING INSPECTION PROGRAM

WHAT IS TAMPERING?

Tampering refers to the removal or modification of emission control equipment on an automobile for purposes of bypassing the emissions control systems. This includes any modification of any part of the automobile that negatively affects emissions. It is illegal to offer for sale or lease, or sell a vehicle that has been tampered with. If a buyer discovers he/she has purchased a tampered vehicle, the purchaser has a legal right through a cause of action to have the sale rescinded and to recover actual damages (which may include legal fees), or both.

WHAT ARE ANTI-TAMPERING INSPECTIONS?

Anti-tampering inspections may be performed on vehicles to determine if a vehicle being offered for sale or lease has had its emissions control equipment permanently removed, modified, or rendered inoperative.

WHO CONDUCTS INSPECTIONS?

Ohio laws and rules give the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), or its authorized representatives, authority to enforce an anti-tampering program. These state laws and rules help protect consumers who have purchased a tampered vehicle. The Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (an authorized representative of Ohio EPA) conducts these inspections in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties.

WHEN ARE INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED?

Ohio EPA requires the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency to conduct at least one anti-tampering inspection each quarter of a calendar year. The inspection may be random (inspectors arbitrarily select a car dealership) or in response to a tampering complaint. The inspections are unannounced.

WHO MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF AN INSPECTION?

Any auto proprietor selling used cars may be approached for an anti-tampering inspection. Additionally, car repair shops (including muffler shops) may be subject to random anti-tampering inspections.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT OCCUR DURING AN INSPECTION?

The inspectors will identify themselves and the agency for which they work and obtain permission to conduct an inspection. They will present the owner or manager of the facility with various fact sheets pertaining to the anti-tampering program.

The inspectors will obtain keys for several vehicles on the lot. Cars will be chosen randomly by the inspectors. A variety of vehicle makes and models will be inspected, as available. The goal is to inspect 30% of the vehicles for sale.

WHAT DO THE INSPECTORS LOOK FOR DURING AN INSPECTION?

The inspectors ensure at least the following parts and systems are in place (as applicable due to make and model):

- Catalytic converter
- Evaporative emissions systems
- Fuel inlet restrictor
- Positive crankcase ventilation system
- Thermostatic air intake
- Air injection system
- Exhaust gas recirculation system
- Oxygen sensor(s)
- Computer controls

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or want further information, please contact the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency at antitampering@hamilton-co.org or 513-946-7777.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A VEHICLE IS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH?

It is illegal to sell a vehicle in a tampered condition. The inspectors will notify the dealership owner/manager of the tampered vehicle to separate it from the other vehicles being offered for sale, lease, or rental and place a sign on the windshield of the vehicle stating:

THIS VEHICLE IS NOT BEING OFFERED FOR SALE, LEASE, OR RENTAL AT THIS TIME

The dealership owner/manager is permitted to repair or replace the tampered or missing parts and systems. After repairs or replacements have been made, the dealership must contact the agency that performed the inspection. Inspectors will follow-up to determine if the vehicle may be offered for sale.

HOW LONG DOES AN INSPECTION TAKE?

It takes approximately 10-15 minutes to inspect each vehicle. Total time of the inspection at the facility is based on the number of vehicles on the lot.

WHY WAS MY LOT CHOSEN/NOT CHOSEN FOR AN INSPECTION?

Unless a consumer makes a tampering complaint against your facility, your lot will be randomly selected for an inspection. The Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency has jurisdiction over Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties and takes care to rotate inspections throughout these areas.

Since the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency is only required to conduct one anti-tampering inspection per quarter in a calendar year, the likelihood that your facility will be randomly selected is small.