Frequently Asked Questions

EPA'S In-Use Verification Program (IUVP)

Must I participate in this program?

No, your cooperation in this program is completely voluntary. If, for any reason you decide not to participate, please complete and return the enclosed reply form in the prepaid envelope.

Why should I participate?

In addition to $20.00 per day per day and loaner vehicle or $50.00 per day with no loaner vehicle, and your vehicle returned to you with a full tank of fuel, your participation will benefit you indirectly by helping EPA understand and improve the quality of the air in and around your city.

Are there any restrictions on my participation?

Yes, if you choose to accept a loaner vehicle as part of your participation in the program then the Automotive Insurance Provider for the loaner vehicle fleet requires that they check the motor vehicle driving record of each individual that will be driving the loaner vehicle while it is in your possession. Insurance for the loaner vehicle is provided at no cost to you with a low deductible for damage (details are available). All individuals driving the loaner vehicle must be 24 years of age or older with no more than 4 points on their driving record. The driving record cannot show more than one accident and one moving violation or four moving violations in the past 3 years.

How long will the test program take?

The test program takes approximately 2 to 4 weeks. The length of time is dependent on the number of tests required and how many other vehicles are being tested.

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Will my vehicle be mistreated in any way?

No, every aspect of the test program has been designed to duplicate everyday operation.

Exactly what will be done to my vehicle?

An underhood inspection and routine maintenance, if necessary will be performed prior to each test. The vehicle must be completely cooled off before the test can begin. This requires that the vehicle not be started for 12 to 36 hours to simulate overnight parking. Once the vehicle is sufficiently cooled off, it will be pushed onto a dynamometer. Although the vehicle does not actually move during the test, the dynamometer is a type of treadmill that simulates conditions which would normally be encountered on the road. A hose is connected to the exhaust pipe to collect the exhaust. A specially trained driver then starts the vehicle and "drives" it through suburban and rural areas. Throughout this time, a portion of the exhaust gases is collected for subsequent analysis. This analysis allows us to calculate the quantity of exhaust emissions emitted by your vehicle. Values for the city and highway fuel economy are also calculated. Typically 2 to 3 of these test sequences will be performed on your vehicle.

How many miles will my vehicle be driven during the program?

Your vehicle will be driven approximately 300 odometer miles during the testing. The majority of these miles will be accumulated indoors on the dynamometer. A 10 minute road test might precede the dynamometer testing.

How will my vehicle be protected while in EPA's laboratory?

In addition to providing insurance, your vehicle will be stored indoors while the testing is being conducted. If required to be parked outside, your vehicle will be located in a locked and secured area at the EPA National Vehicle and Fuels Emission Laboratory (NVFEL).

What happens to the information obtained from my vehicle?

The information collected as a result of this program is used to determine the emissions performance of in-use vehicles and its effect on air quality. The data from your vehicle is combined with data from other vehicles in this area in order to obtain a statistically valid sample.

How can I obtain the results from the testing of my vehicle?

If you request, after the completion of the testing you can obtain the results on your vehicle. We will forward them to you as soon as all the data has been processed.

What happens if my vehicle fails to meet any emission standards?

We expect that a certain portion of vehicles will fail to meet one or more of the emission standards. However, none of the information collected from this program will be used against individual vehicle owners.

How will my monetary incentive be calculated?

You will be offered $20.00 per day and a loaner vehicle for every day your vehicle is at the National Vehicle and Fuels Emission Laboratory (NVFEL). If you do not want a loaner vehicle, you will be offered $50.00 per day. The compensation will be based on whole days, beginning with the day your vehicle arrives. It will end one day after you are notified your car is ready for return. If you do not wish to provide your social security number, you have the option to cap the total incentive at $599.

Who may participate?

Anyone, except employees of Jacobs (the contractor) or EPA shall be eligible for consideration as a candidate vehicle owner for the above mentioned program.