

Summary of Vehicle Inspection Maintenance (I/M) Programs in the United States

All information presented here is for general overview purposes only and not intended as an exhaustive and comprehensive summary of all other state's light-duty (LD) and heavy-duty (HD) I/M programs. Additional details on the other states' programs referenced in this document are available at each state's respective website.

Brief Overview of Other States' I/M Programs¹:

- **Heavy-Duty I/M Programs:**

In addition to California, Arizona, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Utah, and Vermont have inspection programs for HD diesel vehicles. All HD I/M programs currently rely on forms of opacity testing to determine vehicle compliance. Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts are currently working on adding a HD component to their LD I/M programs (Connecticut and Massachusetts are considering OBD-based methods).

- **Light-Duty I/M Programs:**

Other than California, around 30 states have I/M programs for light-duty vehicles. All the existing LD I/M programs are OBD based. Versions of tailpipe emissions testing are generally offered for older vehicles. OBD data submission techniques used in these I/M programs include:

- i. **OBD Testing at certified testing stations:**

- This is the most common testing option conducted by the majority of the states in their LD I/M programs.

- ii. **Self-testing Kiosk:**

- Ohio and Oregon offer self-testing kiosks for vehicles in their light-duty I/M programs. Maryland is the only state that offers this option to vehicles between 8,501 lbs. gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) and 14,000 lbs. GVWR (model year 2008 and newer).

- iii. **Remote OBD through Dongles and Telematics Services:**

- Oregon offers an option of remote submission of OBD data in its LD I/M program. Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) partners with private businesses to offer testing dongles for rent that remotely submit

¹ For more information about other states' I/M efforts, please visit:

<https://obdclearinghouse.com/IMSolutions/#>

<https://www.epa.gov/state-and-local-transportation/vehicle-emissions-inspection-and-maintenance-im-tampering-warranty>

vehicle OBD test data to DEQ's website. These testing dongles are shared across multiple vehicles.

Continuously-connected telematics devices are also used for submitting OBD data through partnerships with telematics companies. Following the remote submission of their vehicle test data, owners log onto DEQ's website to check the test results and pay for/order their vehicle tags, which are then delivered by mail in a few days.

California Bureau of Automotive Repairs (BAR) enrolls interested state government fleets (GVWR < 14,000 lbs) in their Continuous Testing Program pilot program². BAR works with a number of telematics providers to collect OBD data from the participating vehicles.

iv. Mobile On-Site Emissions Testing:

Oregon's DEQ offers mobile on-site testing for auto dealerships. Under this test method, state inspectors bring portable data collection equipment to dealer lots to conduct OBD inspections.

v. Remote Sensing:

To complement their LD I/M programs, Colorado, Connecticut, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, and Virginia use remote sensing of vehicles' emissions, either in clean screen or dirty screen format.

² <https://www.bar.ca.gov/PubWebQuery/FINE/PublicLetterOfResponseForm.aspx?form=ctp>