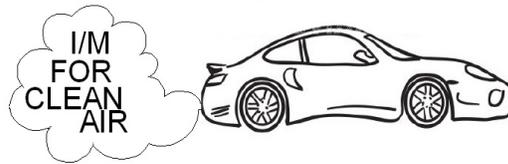




**UTAH COUNTY TECHNICAL BULLETIN**  
*September, 2017-2*



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**OBDII Visual Tamper Inspection**

For several years we have had a choice on the I/M machine, visual tampering portion of the inspection of “OBD System”. That is where you record the results of your visual inspection for OBDII components. Which means you check to make sure all components of the OBDII system are present *and* NO bypass or emulator devices are present.

You are required by Utah County Vehicle Emissions Ordinance 9.10.2.2 to fail any vehicle with a device designed to defeat the ECM self-test for OBDII vehicles. A common defeat device is an oxygen sensor “extender” or “spacer.” This device repositions the oxygen sensor so it is no longer in the “exhaust stream.” The spacer’s purpose is to cause the oxygen sensor to fail to send a signal to the ECM that would indicate a bad catalytic converter. This device if not caught during the inspection may allow a vehicle that needs a catalytic converter replacement to improperly pass the test. The installation of such a device is fraudulent behavior, especially if the vehicle is being sold. Such behavior defrauds the new owner out of repair costs that could total thousands of dollars. The new owner has very few options since repairs must be made *before* the vehicle can be licensed or re-sold. We want to make all stations and technicians aware of their responsibility and liability (if done incorrectly) to perform a proper test on all vehicles but particularly on vehicles being tested for a Car Sales Lot. The following situation recently occurred.

A used car dealer purchased a vehicle from the auction process here in Utah. The vehicle was then presented to one of our certified emissions stations and was issued a passing emissions certificate. A few weeks later the vehicle was sold to a resident of Utah County. A few days after the purchase the MIL came on with trouble codes. At that time the vehicle was taken to a shop for diagnostics. During the diagnostics it was discovered that all 3 downstream O<sub>2</sub> sensors had double stacked O<sub>2</sub> extenders. The vehicle was sent to our Tech Center where we documented the discoveries of the repair station. The vehicle needed three new catalytic converters which had been hidden by the tampering.

We then tried to involve the Used Car Dealer in the process of repairing the vehicle properly but they chose to hide behind the perceived protection of their customer signing the “As Is Policy”. Because of their actions all the liability fell back on the emissions testing station and technician. Unfair as this is, we only have jurisdiction over stations and technicians who voluntarily participate in our program and have no way to make the Dealer “do the right thing”. Suspension time for improper inspection and passing a tampered vehicle fell back on the emission station and technician.

Please take the time to inspect the vehicles thoroughly. We would strongly recommend being **extra cautious** when testing used cars that will be sold here in our county.

**Automatic Certificate Order**

You can set your analyzer to automatically purchase more certificates when a pre-determined level of inventory occurs. This can be a very convenient way to make sure you don’t run out at a bad time. We have a number of stations that are taking advantage of this option, however recently we have had some stations set this up on their analyzer but neglect to provide the necessary credit card information to Opus. This causes the certificate order to fail thereby creating a situation where they may be expecting the certificates to be downloading automatically when they won’t. Please be sure that you have set up your analyzer AND provided the credit card

information for worry free certificate order and download. If you would like to start using this feature, contact Opus or us here at Utah County Vehicle Emissions (801 851-7600). We can get you instructions on how to set up the analyzer and the credit card form. We are happy to fax or email them to you. Once properly set up, this feature works extremely well.

### **Software update 1.52**

A new program update ver 1.52 will be downloading to your analyzers in the upcoming weeks. Many of you may have noticed the 1.51 version did not download. We found a problem in HD testing that would be causing problems down the road and decided to correct it now. The 1.52 update will provide all the changes previously announced and also HD vehicles newer than 2015 and into the foreseeable future. We do not expect any problems, but contact Opus (800 695-4377) if you experience issues. The update will occur when the analyzer communicates during the night.

### **2018 Emission Control Application Guide Available**

The 2018 Emission Control Application Guide is available. If you will be due for an updated manual next year you can order the 2018 now. Remember you must have a guide that is no more than three years old. If your newest guide is 2015 you will need a newer one in January. If you go past the grace period, March 1, 2018 you will be locked out **until you have the guide**. You can order 2018 now and have smooth sailing next year.

Mitchell Application Guide: (888) 724-6742

or

Motor Application Guide: (801) 580-3892