

OBD Evaluation WG Report

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AIAM



OBD WG Mission

- Evaluate Real World Efficacy of OBD as I/M Tool
- Identify Special Implementation or Operational Concerns
- Suggest Procedures or Practices to Address Such Concerns
- Make Recommendations to EPA, as Needed

Results To Date

- Reviewed Data from Several States With Early Implementation of OBD Checks
- Reviewed Data from Several EPA Test Programs
- Developed and Submitted Recommendations to EPA for Early Implementation Guidance

Today's Issue

- Recommendation to EPA to Revise Federal OBD I/M Rules to Provide More Procedural Flexibility to States

Current OBD I/M Regulations

- Require Addition of OBD Checks with No Flexibility to Use OBD In Lieu of Other I/M Tests
- Provide Little or No Flexibility to Deal with Readiness Code Concerns

Negative Results

- OBD Consumer Acceptance Issues
- Failure to Take Advantage of Advanced Technology in I/M Programs
- Higher I/M Costs
- Consumer Issues at I/M Lanes
- Another Potential Black Eye for I/M

State Flexibility Needed

- To Address Potential Operational Issues with Readiness Codes
- To Tailor Program to Ensure Meeting Air Quality Objectives While Ensuring Consumer Acceptance
- Varying Situations in States Suggest Flexibility to Choose Among Available Options to Address Technical Concerns

OBD Checks In Lieu

- OBD Checks are Effective Stand Alone I/M Tool
- Conserves Resources
- Prevents Consumer Issues with False Failures and Conflicting Results between OBD and Tailpipe Tests

Readiness Codes

- OBD Being “Not Ready” for Some Monitors is Issue For a Small Fraction of Vehicles
- Current Regulations Specify That “Not Ready” Vehicles Be Declined for Inspection and Tested Later - Same as a Failure
- WG Identified More Consumer Oriented Ways to Deal with Readiness Codes

WG Recommendation

- EPA Should Revise OBD I/M Regulations to Allow States and Localities Flexibility
 - To Consider the Merits of OBD Checks In Lieu of Other I/M Tests, and
 - To Establish OBD Test Procedures to Address Readiness Code Issues in a Consumer Friendly Manner