



Frequently Asked Questions – Termination of Vehicle Emission Testing Requirements for Franklin County Residents

Effective July 1, 2022, vehicles registered in Franklin County no longer need an emissions inspection for vehicle registration. On Jan, 27, 2022 the Missouri Air Conservation Commission adopted an amendment to 10 CSR 10-5.381 “Onboard Diagnostics Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection.” 10 CSR 10-5.381 identifies which vehicles are subject to emissions testing requirements and the amended regulation exempts vehicles registered in Franklin County from emissions testing inspection requirements. Vehicles registered in the City of St. Louis and the Counties of St. Charles, St. Louis, and Jefferson are still subject to emissions inspection requirements. Further information can be found below.

Why is this change happening?

The action comes after years of effort by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, regulated facilities, and citizens working together to reduce air emissions. Over the past 20 years, ground-level ozone concentrations in the St. Louis region have steadily declined, making it possible to pursue the removal of these mandated requirements.

In 2019, the Department submitted a formal request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to end the inspection requirements in Franklin County. Information provided with the request demonstrates that removal of the requirements will not jeopardize air quality, particularly with respect to the federal outdoor air quality standard for ground-level ozone. The Department’s demonstration shows that air pollution from motor vehicles will continue to decline in Franklin County even in the absence of the emission testing requirements. This is the result of federal motor vehicle regulations and normal fleet turnover in the region. With the recent adoption of the regulatory requirements, EPA is proceeding with their formal approval.

Where is this change happening?

The previous emissions inspection area included St. Louis City and the Counties of St. Charles, St. Louis, Jefferson, and Franklin. The amended rule removes emissions inspection requirements from Franklin County registered vehicles, and therefore, beginning July 1, 2022, vehicles registered in Franklin County no longer require emissions inspections.

When does this change take effect?

Effective July 1, 2022 vehicles registered in Franklin County no longer need an emissions inspection for vehicle registration.

What is an emissions inspection?

The emissions inspection in Missouri consists of a test of a vehicle's On-Board Diagnostics, Generation II (OBDII) emissions system. The inspector mechanic plugs a computer device into the OBDII data port of a vehicle and tests the emissions system, including but not limited to the Catalytic System, Oxygen Sensors, Evaporative System, and Exhaust Gas Recirculation System. The state mandated maximum fee for an emissions inspection is \$24.

Why does my vehicle need an emissions inspection?

Motor vehicles are a leading source of air pollution in the St. Louis area due to the large number of vehicles on the road and amount of miles traveled daily. Previously, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the counties of Franklin, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Jefferson, and St. Louis City as an ozone nonattainment area as they did not meet the federal health-based air quality standards for ground-level ozone, a strong lung irritant.

The action to remove emissions testing requirements in Franklin County comes after years of effort by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, regulated facilities, and citizens working together to reduce air emissions. In June 2018, EPA redesignated the majority of Franklin County to attainment (excluding Boles Township) for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard. Over the past 20 years, ground-level ozone concentrations in the St. Louis region have steadily declined making it possible to pursue the removal of these mandated requirements.

What vehicles need emissions inspections after June 30, 2022?

All gas-powered vehicles 1996 and newer, and diesel-powered vehicles 1997 and newer, registered in the St. Louis ozone nonattainment area (St. Louis City, and the Counties of Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis) require an emissions inspection for registration purposes.

If 51% or more of your annual miles are driven in these counties, an emissions test is required, regardless of where the vehicle is registered.

The Missouri Department of Revenue will continue to mail vehicle registration papers 60 days prior to plate expiration to notify motorists when to have their vehicles emissions tested and safety inspected. The Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program requires emissions testing for even model year vehicles during even calendar years and odd model year vehicles during odd calendar years. An emissions test is also required any time an eligible vehicle undergoes a registration transfer.

Where/how do I get my vehicle emissions tested?

Visit the online [Station Directory](#) to locate emissions inspections stations nearest to you. You will ask the station to perform an emissions inspection on your vehicle which consists of a test of a vehicle's OBDII emissions system. The inspector mechanic will plug a computer device into the OBDII data port of a vehicle and test the emissions

system including but not limited to the Catalytic System, Oxygen Sensors, Evaporative System, and EGR System. The maximum fee for an emissions inspection is \$24. Please note that there may be some delay in updating the participating GVIP stations, and after July 1, 2022 some inspection stations in Franklin County may no longer offer the emissions testing service. Motorists seeking emissions inspections at Franklin County stations should call to verify whether that station is still participating in the GVIP.

I received a registration renewal postcard from the Missouri Department of Revenue indicating that I need an emissions inspection, do I still need an emissions inspection?

Vehicles registered in Franklin County with registration renewals due in July 2022, may receive registration renewal post cards stating that emissions inspections are due.

You will need an emissions inspection if you are registering your vehicle in Franklin County prior to July 1, 2022, and your vehicle requires an emissions inspection. Vehicles registered in Franklin County after June 30, 2022, will no longer need an emissions inspection for registration. Motorists should keep these dates in mind regardless of what their registration renewal post card states. Detailed scenarios are provided below to help explain what to expect.

My registration expires the end of June 2022, do I still need an emissions inspection?

If your vehicle is currently registered in Franklin County and your registration expires on June 30, 2022, an emissions inspection will be required if you renew the registration prior to July 1, 2022. As of July 1, 2022, the vehicles registering in Franklin County are exempt from emission inspection requirements.

The following scenarios are written from the perspective of a Franklin County resident where more than 51% of your annual miles driven are not within the St. Louis ozone nonattainment area:

Scenario 1: I receive a postcard in the mail in April 2022, telling me I need to renew my registration which expires June 30, 2022. I decide to be proactive and get my renewal done prior to June 30, 2022. In order to register my vehicle prior to July 1, 2022, I will need a passing emissions inspection along with any safety inspection requirements (if applicable).

Scenario 2: I receive a postcard in the mail in April 2022, telling me I need to renew my registration which expires June 30, 2022. I do not go to renew my registration until July 5, 2022. In order to register my vehicle after July 1, 2022, I will no longer need a passing emissions inspection, but may still require a passing safety inspection (if applicable). Since my registration renewal is past its expiration date, I may be charged a renewal penalty fee.

My registration expires the end of July 2022, do I still need an emissions inspection?

If your vehicle is currently registered in Franklin County and your registration expires on July 31, 2022, an emissions inspection will be required if you renew the registration prior to July 1, 2022. As of July 1, 2022, the vehicles registering in Franklin County will be

exempt from emission inspection requirements.

The following scenarios are written from the perspective of a Franklin County resident where more than 51% of your annual miles driven are not within the St. Louis ozone nonattainment area:

Scenario 3: I receive a postcard in the mail in May 2022, telling me I need to renew my registration which expires July 31, 2022. I decide to be proactive and get my renewal done prior to July 1, 2022. In order to register my vehicle prior to July 1, 2022, I will need a passing emissions inspection along with any safety inspection requirements (if applicable).

Scenario 4: I receive a postcard in the mail in May 2022, telling me I need to renew my registration which expires July 31, 2022. I do not go to renew my registration until July 5, 2022. In order to register my vehicle after July 1, 2022, I will no longer need a passing emissions inspection, but may still require a passing safety inspection (if applicable).

Scenario 5: I receive a postcard in the mail in May 2022, telling me I need to renew my registration which expires July 31, 2022. I do not go to renew my registration until Aug. 1, 2022. In order to register my vehicle after July 1, 2022, I will no longer need a passing emissions inspection, but may still require a passing safety inspection (if applicable). Since my registration renewal is past its expiration date, I may be charged a renewal penalty fee.

What is a safety inspection?

A vehicle safety inspection insures that vehicles on Missouri roads meet a minimum standard of safety. An online [Motor Vehicle Inspection Checklist](#) contains a complete listing of all items inspected. The state mandated maximum fee for a safety inspection is \$12.

Do I still need a Safety Inspection?

This change in the emissions inspection requirements for Franklin County does not affect the requirements for safety inspections.

Additional information from the Missouri Department of Revenue

- [Safety inspection requirements](#)
- [Selling a vehicle](#)

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please reach out to:

The Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program:

Phone: [314-416-2115](tel:314-416-2115) Email: imunit@dnr.mo.gov

Or the Air Pollution Control Program:

Phone: [573-751-4817](tel:573-751-4817) Email: apcp.receptionist@dnr.mo.gov