

If my vehicle failed for Readiness, what should I do next?

If your vehicle fails for readiness, you should simply drive your vehicle. Normally, a week of combined highway and city driving, known as "drive-cycles", will reset the OBD monitors, thereby allowing an OBD test to be completed. Following are some suggestions that should allow the OBD system to become "Ready":

- ⊕ Drive the vehicle at least three separate times, which should include the vehicle being turned off and on:
 - ⇒ One drive-cycle should be local in-town driving;
 - ⇒ One drive-cycle should be highway driving; and
 - ⇒ One drive-cycle should be after the vehicle was unused for a period (overnight, etc.).
- ⊕ Have the gas tank at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ full; and
- ⊕ Drive the vehicle smoothly and avoid rapid acceleration.

NOTE: If the vehicle failed for "unset readiness" upon the retest, the required number of monitors must be ready, or the emission test will be aborted.

NOTE: If the vehicle initially failed for a catalyst related DTC, the catalyst monitor must be "ready" to complete a retest.

NOTE: If you still encounter difficulty getting your vehicle's monitors "ready" after performing these drive cycles, some new car manufacturers may be able to set the monitors to "ready", with their diagnostic computer.

If you are unable to get your vehicle ready for an OBD emission test, you may have a CERT perform a drive-cycle conditioning. Be sure to ask if there is any cost for this service.

What is a Certified Emission Repair Technician?

A CERT is an automotive technician who has successfully passed a State of Connecticut required training program, devoted specifically to the repair of emission problems. A repair facility that employs a CERT is designated as a Certified Emission Repair Facility (CERF).

Where can I find a Connecticut Certified Emission Repair Facility?

In addition, to the Vehicle Inspection Report indicating that your vehicle failed, you will receive a listing of CERFs that are near the test center. While at the test center, you may also request a listing for another area, or find a complete list of all CERFs, located throughout Connecticut on www.ctemissions.com. You may also call (888) 828-8399 for additional information.

General Program Information

- ⊕ Most vehicles with a GVWR less than 10,001 LBS are required to pass an emission test at least every two years.
- ⊕ A late fee will be assessed if a vehicle is tested more than thirty (30) calendar days after its due date, or after sixty (60) calendar days from the first failure date.
- ⊕ **If you purchased a vehicle from a Connecticut dealer**, the dealer, at the time of sale, must ensure that the vehicle is emissions compliant.
- ⊕ **If you purchase a vehicle from a private party**, the vehicle is required to be in emissions compliance, at the time that it is registered.
- ⊕ To find out if the vehicle you are buying is in compliance, visit www.ctemissions.com and enter the VIN number or call 1-888-828-8399.

Understanding the On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) Test



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What's OBD?

OBD means On-Board Diagnostics. Most 1996, and newer vehicles, have standardized computer systems (also known as OBDII) that continually monitor the electronic sensors of engines and emission control systems, including the catalytic converter, while the vehicle is being driven, to ensure that they are working as designed. When a potential problem is detected, a dashboard warning light, called a Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL), is illuminated to alert the driver.

OBD systems can detect problems well before symptoms occur, such as, poor performance, high emissions or poor fuel economy are recognized by the driver. The OBD emissions test can provide a more comprehensive picture of a vehicle's emissions status because it evaluates emissions during every day operating conditions whereas a tailpipe test measures emissions only at a particular moment in time. Early detection helps to avoid costly repairs and improves vehicle emissions.

For more information on OBD emission testing, please visit the United States Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/obd

What is a Malfunction Indicator Light?

The Malfunction Indicator Light is commonly referred to as the check engine, or service engine light. Following are the usual symbols that most manufacturers use to represent the MIL:



What is the purpose of the MIL Light?

During everyday operation, the MIL light will illuminate for a few seconds when a vehicle is started, and turn off when the engine is running. When the MIL light remains on during normal vehicle operation, the OBD system has detected a problem(s) with the vehicle's engine, transmission or emission control system.

Do not ignore this warning!!

Please Note: If the MIL light is continuously illuminated when the vehicle undergoes an emission test, the vehicle will FAIL the emissions test.

What does it mean when my vehicle's MIL Light remains on?

When a vehicle's MIL light remains on, the OBD system has detected an emission problem. By illuminating the MIL light, the OBD system has stored a Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) in the vehicle's computer memory that can be used by a qualified technician to diagnosis the problem.

Sometimes the OBD system will automatically turn the MIL light off if the conditions that caused the problem are no longer present. This occurs when the OBD system reevaluates the emissions system, three consecutive times, and no longer detects the initial problem.

For example, if a gas cap is not properly tightened after refueling, the OBD system may detect vapor leakage and turn on the MIL light. If the gas cap is tightened, the OBD system will recognize this, and the MIL light will go off after a few days of driving.

What should I do, when the MIL Light remains illuminated?

When the MIL light remains illuminated, the OBD system is alerting you that the vehicle should be serviced by a qualified technician, such as a Certified Emission Repair Technician (CERT). Timely diagnosis may save you money in three ways:



- ⊗ Small problems are identified before they become major expenses;
- ⊗ A faulty component may be covered by the vehicle's emission warranty; and
- ⊗ OBD test results allow a Certified Emission Repair Technician to accurately pinpoint problems that could reduce costly diagnostic fees.

What does it mean when my vehicle's MIL Light is flashing?

When a vehicle's MIL light is flashing, it means that your vehicle's engine is seriously misfiring. Because this condition may cause the catalytic converter to overheat and cause a fire, you should stop driving the vehicle and have it diagnosed to by a qualified technician as soon as possible. If this problem is not addressed quickly, the resulting repairs may be very expensive.



What are the usual reasons for an OBD Failure?

The most common reasons for a vehicle to fail an OBD emissions test include:

- ⊗ MIL light remains illuminated while vehicle is running;
- ⊗ OBD Monitor(s) are Not Ready;
- ⊗ OBD Connector is missing, damaged or inaccessible;
- ⊗ MIL light does not operate (OBD system is not functioning correctly, could have been tampered with or the indicator light is inoperable); or
- ⊗ OBD Communication failure (Emissions analyzer cannot communicate with your vehicle).

My vehicle failed its OBD emission test for "Readiness"?

When a vehicle fails an OBD emission test due to excessive OBD readiness monitors, it indicates that your vehicle's OBD system was not ready to perform its examination of the emission control system because the required number of monitors had not completed their analysis of the vehicle's emission control system.

Readiness Monitors Status
Air Condition System: NOT SUPPORTED
Catalyst: NOT READY
EGR System: READY
Evaporative System: READY
(Sample Test Data)

What does "Not Ready" mean?

Not ready means the OBD system continually collects data on your vehicle's everyday operation to determine if it would pass an OBD emission test. In most cases, "Not Ready" is a result of a battery being disconnected, or a scan tool turning the MIL light off during repair work causing the monitors to be unset.

Please note that disconnecting your battery, replacing a defective or low voltage battery, or clearing the OBD computer, prior to an emission test will result in an emission test failure for readiness.