

The Analyzer

Top Story

Benefits to becoming a Recognized Repair Facility with the Wisconsin Vehicle Inspection Program

Motorists in southeastern Wisconsin seek emissions related repairs for vehicles that cannot pass the emissions inspection, a biennial requirement for most vehicles to complete registration renewal or at the time a vehicle changes ownership.

A repair business achieves recognition if it has at least one technician with advanced emissions related training (see details below) and has completed the registration process with the Wisconsin Vehicle Inspection Program (WIVIP).

Repair facilities meeting recognition criteria can realize the following advantages:

- ◆ **Increased business:** Accurate repairs yield satisfied customers and word-of-mouth referrals from family and friends.
- ◆ **Free advertising:** Only a list of recognized repair facilities is provided to motorists at the time of the vehicle's failure or rejection. There is also a special section on the program website (<https://www.wisconsinvip2.org/>) that lists recognized repair facilities.
- ◆ **Increased credibility:** A recognized repair facility is one of a select group of repair facilities distinguished for having technicians with advanced emissions repair training.
- ◆ **Standing out:** Only DTC-related emissions repair work performed at a recognized repair facility is eligible for waiver consideration.



How to become recognized

If your facility employs at least one technician with ASE L1 certification or WISETECH certification; or is a franchised new car dealership, it is one step away from becoming a recognized repair facility.

You may register your facility, free of charge, with the Wisconsin Vehicle Inspection Program (WIVIP) by completing the application (listed under Forms and Downloads on the program website).

Once recognized, your facility will appear on the WIVIP website, as well as on handouts to customers.

If you would like to become recognized, but need to be certified or recertify, you can find information regarding the ASE process at www.ase.com.

Volume 2, Issue 7
December 2025

Inside this issue:

FEATURE	PAGE
<i>Top Story:</i> Benefits to becoming a Recognized Repair Facility	1
<i>Program News:</i> Staying up to date on vehicle testing requirements	2
<i>The Technician's Bench:</i> Jeff Gahan welcomes techs at quarterly seminar	3
<i>Community News:</i> Reminders to help ensure happy motorists	4



Staying up to date on vehicle testing requirements

Time to review these important inspection elements

On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) Inspection

A vehicle that is model year 1996 and newer will receive an OBD inspection. Today's vehicles have OBD computers that monitor engine and emission control systems. When the computer detects a malfunction, a light on the dashboard is illuminated and a code identifying the malfunction is stored in the computer for access by a repair technician. By identifying specific malfunctions, OBD enhances the repair industry's ability to diagnose and repair vehicles.



What vehicles require testing?

- ◆ Vehicles kept in the following seven counties of southeastern Wisconsin are subject to emissions testing: Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha.
- ◆ Testing is required at Change of Ownership (>five model years) and at time of Registration Renewal (every two years).
- ◆ 1996 - 2006 with a GVWR < 8,501 lbs. require testing (Gasoline Only)
- ◆ 2007 and newer with a GVWR < 14,001 lbs. require testing (Diesel and Gasoline)
- ◆ Motorcycles are exempt from emissions testing.

Requirements for registration renewal testing

Every other year, 1996 and newer vehicles (newest three model years are exempt) must be tested before their license plates can be renewed. Because this is a biennial test, the following model years will be tested to fulfill registration renewal testing requirements:

- ◆ Model years subject to testing for Registration Renewals expiring in **2026**:
 - ◊ 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023.
- ◆ Model years subject to testing for Registration Renewals expiring in **2027**:
 - ◊ 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024

Requirements for Change of Ownership testing

Vehicles more than five model years old are subject to testing upon change of ownership. Motorists receive notice of the emissions-testing requirement after they have titled and registered the vehicle. Failure to complete the emissions requirement within the allotted 45-day time period will result in the suspension of the vehicle's registration.

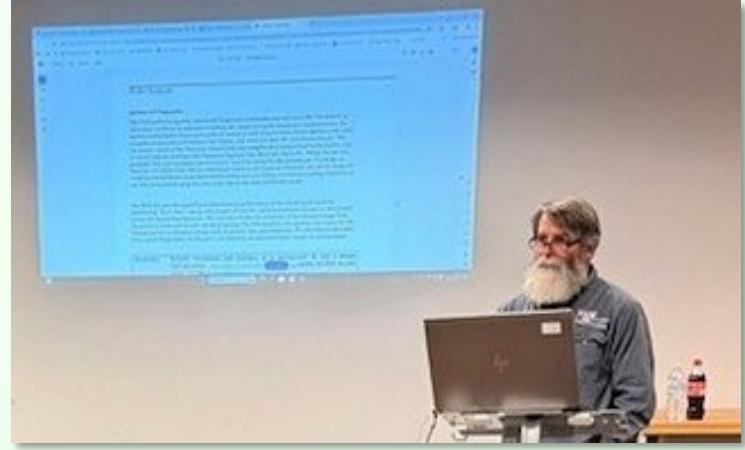


MATC's Jeff Gahan welcomes attendees at recent seminar

Critical role of vehicle output controls examined in detail

Jeff Gahan from MATC's automotive department held a quarterly seminar on Wednesday, November 19th at the Opus Brookfield, Wisconsin, facility.

The training session was designed for automotive technicians, and focused on the ***critical role of vehicle output controls in modern computer-controlled systems***. Attendees examined how control modules command actuators, relays, and other output devices to manage key vehicle functions. The session also covered how output control testing supports effective diagnostics, troubleshooting, and repair.



Free quarterly seminars are hosted at the Opus Brookfield facility at 3225 Gateway Rd, Suite 450. Refreshments are served. Attendees find that the quarterly seminars offer great opportunities to increase their knowledge base and enhance their careers.

If you would be interested in hosting a seminar at your shop or you have a topic that you would like to be included in an upcoming seminar, please contact Opus at (262) 641-5217.

Photo credits: Mycheal Larry

Registration Renewals key to customer satisfaction

After a passed emission test, do you ask the motorist if they want to renew their registration? For many motorists, they like the convenience of completing their registration right away to save valuable time and to receive their sticker instantly.

We have seen many positive reviews from customers who took advantage of Registration Renewal once they learned that our stations offer this service. Make it a point to offer to renew every motorist's registration and you will see increased revenue and customer satisfaction.



Here are a few reminders to ensure motorists have a great testing experience

 Each location has posted emission testing hours on the official WIVIP sign that is visible to the motorist. Did you know that we also have a [website](#) where motorists can find a testing facility that is convenient for them? This website is interactive, and the motorist can select the date they would like to test their vehicle and then either enter an address or zip code to find a list of locations in their area. The stations listed are sorted by distance and list the testing hours for each location. Motorists rely on this information. If you are unable to test during your posted hours, please notify Opus immediately at (262) 641-5217.



Welcome to the Wisconsin Vehicle Inspection Program!

 Each station has an approved testing location and a requirement to capture 100% of the vehicle on camera before starting a test. The tablet will display the vehicle in the screen and if 100% of the vehicle is not visible, the vehicle needs to be repositioned before moving forward with the test.

 Another requirement is that each motorist receives a printed copy of the vehicle inspection report (VIR). If for some reason your printer is not operating correctly, please notify Opus and stop testing until the printer issue is resolved.

Interested in joining the WIVIP team as a PIF?

It's easy! Contact Bob Patzer

Phone: (262) 282-5598

Email: Bob.Patzer@Opusinspection.com