

COLORADO EMISSIONS PROCESS - OVERVIEW

When Should a Dealer Use An Emissions Voucher?

By Rick Salazar, Emissions, Auto Industry Division

Auto Industry Division has received several questions about the use of the emissions voucher. Licensed Colorado dealers have been using emissions vouchers as a convenient, cost-effective way of having vehicles emissions tested since 1997.

A voucher is also known and referred to as a “dealer coupon” by many dealers. The voucher can be used in place of a passing emissions test that is to be provided to the buyer at the time of sale of a used motor vehicle, by the dealer to the buyer that lives in the enhanced emissions program area. The bearer of the voucher, the buyer, is entitled to an emission inspection at an enhanced emissions inspection station in accordance with laws and regulations covering the emissions test of the sale of a used motor vehicle.

What are the enhanced emissions program areas?

The counties of Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Boulder, Broomfield and portions of Adams and Arapahoe.

What are the emissions requirements when selling a used vehicle to a buyer that resides in the enhanced program areas?

When a dealer sells a vehicle and the buyer gives an address located in one of the enhanced areas, the dealer is required to provide the buyer with a passing enhanced emissions test or a voucher that is to be delivered to the buyer at the time of sale. The voucher is to be filled out by the dealer with the selling dealers name and the vehicle’s VIN number and then signed and dated by the buyer.

It is recommended that dealers retain a copy of the voucher in their files or the vehicle deal jacket for one year. The voucher copy is proof that the dealer provided the buyer with an emissions voucher.

What about the three day rule? On the voucher there are requirements that the buyer needs to abide by. When the selling dealer issues the voucher at the time of sale, the buyer has three business days (Sundays and major holidays are excluded), beginning the day after the date the buyer takes possession of a motor vehicle to obtain an emissions test on the vehicle at an Envirotest testing facility.

If the vehicle fails the emissions test, is rejected, or is unable to be tested by Envirotest, and is returned to the selling dealer within 3 business days, the dealer then shall notify the consumer whether the dealer has chosen to (1) repair the vehicle, (2) pay a third party to repair the vehicle, or (3) unwind the deal and repurchase the vehicle from the buyer at the vehicle’s purchase price. If the dealer chooses to repair the vehicle to pass the emissions test, it is the dealer’s responsibility to have the vehicle retested in order to confirm the repairs and provide a passing emission test to the buyer at no additional cost. The dealer has 10 days to complete repairs from the date of the emission test failure or rejection.

Unable to be tested, is defined as a vehicle that has been rejected due to a potentially unsafe condition that cannot be accepted for emissions testing. The selling dealer is responsible for providing the consumer with a vehicle that will pass the emission test. The dealer is relieved of this responsibility when the buyer does not return a failing or rejected vehicle within the initial 3-day time period.

Where can vouchers be purchased? Dealers can purchase vouchers from Envirotest. The vouchers are purchased from Envirotest for a fee of \$25.00 and \$15.00. The \$25.00 voucher is to be issued to a vehicle of model year 1982 and newer. The \$15.00 voucher is to be issued to a vehicle of model year 1981 and older. The voucher is a two-piece carbonless copy form that has the required disclosure statements and a control number enclosed on the form. Vouchers can be obtained from by calling Envirotest at (303) 456-7090.

Can a voucher be used with a diesel vehicle sale? No. The voucher is only for gasoline powered vehicles.

If you have any additional questions about the use of the vouchers or questions about the emissions program, contact the Department of Revenue, Emissions Section at (303) 205-5603; or online at: http://www.revenue.state.co.us/my_dir/home.asp (Select “Emissions” from the Main Categories).