

## Qualifying for a test exemption

In 2005, Drive Clean established an incentive to encourage good vehicle maintenance. Qualifying diesel HDV operators are able to have their vehicles tested every two years, instead of annually.

## How the test exemption works

To qualify for an exemption, a diesel HDV must register a 20 per cent or lower opacity reading. Vehicles that register over 20 per cent opacity still require annual tests.

In 2009, the exemption is available for odd-model-year vehicles. In 2010, the exemption is available for even-model-year vehicles. The following table shows the calendar years in which diesel HDVs require testing or may be exempt.

Test results are recorded in the provincial vehicle registration database. If your vehicle qualifies for an exemption, there will not be a

Calendar year	Even model years	Odd model years
2009	Test required	May be exempt*
2010	May be exempt*	Test required
2011	Test required	May be exempt*
2012	May be exempt*	Test required

\* Exemption is available to diesel HDVs that register a 20 percent or lower opacity reading

requirement for a new test when you receive your vehicle licence renewal, provided that the vehicle meets all other conditions. You will still receive an information insert on the HDV emissions program with your vehicle licence renewal information.

When you renew your registration, it is recommended that you bring your last Drive Clean pass report with you to assist with the vehicle registration process.

The test exemption is not available to non-diesel HDVs, which continue to require annual tests.



## Non-Diesel Heavy-Duty Vehicles

Non-diesel HDVs are tested at light-duty vehicle facilities using a pre-conditioned two speed idle test, which measures a vehicle’s tailpipe emissions of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxides against the limits listed in the Drive Clean Guide.

## Test Validity

A Drive Clean pass is valid for one year from the date of issue for registration renewal or ownership transfer, unless the vehicle qualifies for the diesel HDV incentive. If a vehicle qualifies for the incentive, the pass may be used for up to two years to allow for registration renewal in the exemption year.

A Drive Clean pass must be valid on the expiry date of the licence plate. However, for a late renewal or for an ownership transfer, it must be valid on the date of the transaction.

## Idling can be costly

Unnecessary idling of vehicles harms our health and our environment. Turning off your engine whenever possible saves fuel and reduces vehicle maintenance costs. Natural Resources Canada recommends that if you’re going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds – except in traffic – turn the engine off. Idling longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more CO2 than restarting your engine.

## The Environmental Protection Act

All vehicles on Ontario’s highways, whether registered in Ontario or from out-of-province, are subject to the provincial Environmental Protection Act (EPA). The Act prohibits excessive visible exhaust emissions and the alteration or removal of emissions control equipment. This applies to all vehicles – even if they have passed a Drive Clean test.

In addition, the EPA makes it an offence to be involved in the production of a false Drive Clean pass or to use one for a vehicle registration transaction.



Ontario’s Drive Clean



## Drive Clean’s heavy-duty vehicle program

Test exemptions increase for newer vehicles



## Testing for Heavy-Duty Vehicles (HDVs)

Drive Clean tests are required for all heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses in Ontario. Non-diesel heavy-duty vehicles require a Drive Clean test if they are registered in the southern Ontario light-duty vehicle program area. All HDVs must be tested for registration renewal, starting when they are five years old. There is no vehicle age limit on the test requirements.

For registration renewal:

- 2005 model year vehicles will need their first emissions test in 2010.

- 2006 model year vehicles will need their first test in 2011.

Re-sale vehicles require a Drive Clean test for ownership transfer, beginning when the model year of the vehicle is older than the current calendar year. Again, there is no age limit on vehicles requiring the test.

For ownership transfer:

- 2009 model year vehicles and earlier require an emissions test in 2010
- 2010 model year vehicles and earlier require an emissions test in 2011.

In order to help improve air quality and to protect the health of Ontarians and the environment, diesel trucks and buses registered in Ontario are subject to emissions test standards that are among the strictest in North America.

## Getting a HDV Diesel vehicle tested

Heavy-duty diesel vehicles must be tested at stationary or mobile HDV Drive Clean Facilities accredited by the Ministry of the Environment. Fees for tests and re-tests are set by the facility, based on market rates.

## Particulate matter in our air

Diesel emissions standards are based on opacity readings, which indicate the particulate matter (PM) in the exhaust of diesel HDVs. Opacity reading measures the amount of visible light

that is blocked by exhaust smoke during a snap acceleration test. PM, a major component of smog, is damaging to human health and the environment. It is emitted by diesel vehicles largely as a result of unburned fuel.

Diesel HDVs contribute over 50 per cent of the PM from on-road transportation sources, of which about 90 per cent is microscopic PM 2.5. These microscopic particles are readily absorbed by the human respiratory system. PM is linked to asthma and respiratory and



cardiovascular illnesses. Children and the elderly are among those most susceptible to its effects. In addition, incomplete fuel combustion also generates environmentally damaging greenhouse gases.

## Diesel emissions standards

When the program began in 1999, Drive Clean applied opacity standards in line with other

jurisdictions in North America: 40 per cent for 1991 and newer model years, and 55 per cent for 1990 and earlier models. Since then, standards have been tightened twice: the current standards are 30 per cent opacity for 1991 and newer model vehicles and 40 per cent opacity for 1990 and older vehicles. Emissions standards for light-duty vehicles have also been tightened twice since the program began.

## School bus standards

To help protect children from harmful diesel emissions, large diesel school buses must meet the more stringent of the two standards in place for diesel HDVs. As of April 1, 2005, all school buses must meet the 30 per cent opacity standard, regardless of the age of the vehicle.



For more information on Ontario's Drive Clean, call:  
**1-888-758-2999**  
or visit  
**www.driveclean.com**

