

AIR QUALITY BOARD

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Last Day for Emissions Testing in Ada County

Meridian, ID – Today, June 30, 2023, marks the last day of Ada County's emissions testing program, in place since 1984. The program will officially end at midnight tonight.

Individuals who have received emissions testing notices may disregard those notices. Vehicle registrations that have been revoked due to failure to comply with emissions testing requirements will automatically be reinstated beginning July 1.

"Ada County has had an emissions testing program for nearly 40 years," explains Air Quality Board Executive Director Matt Stoll. "The program has been successful in reducing vehicle emissions in Ada County. However, as newer vehicles meet tougher emissions standards, the program's benefits are not as significant as they once were. The data show that we can eliminate emissions testing without significantly harming air quality or public health."

The Ada County emissions testing program has been required through federal, state, and local statutes. For the program to end, all three sets of requirements have to be removed.

- State Requirement: Removal effective July 1, 2023.
- <u>Federal Requirement</u>: Removal approved by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator June 8, 2023.
- Local Requirements: Removal triggered by removal of federal requirement.
 - The federal requirement was implemented through city and county ordinances. Local jurisdictions in Ada County have repealed their ordinances contingent upon the EPA removing the federal requirement; thus, removal of the federal requirement triggered removal of the local requirements as well.

Despite the ending of the program, Stoll reminds residents that, "this action does not mean that air pollution is no longer a concern. Idaho and the Treasure Valley will still have periods of poor air quality, and vehicles will remain a contributing factor. Please continue to do your part by maintaining your vehicle, driving less, and avoiding unnecessary idling."

For more information, visit the Air Quality Board website at https://www.emissiontest.org/.