

Q. Why does my vehicle require a Smog Test?

A. Smog tests are required by MCO 5090.2 and applicable federal law which mandates compliance with a state's Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program. The I&M program in California is managed by the Bureau of Automotive Repair and NOT the Department of Motor Vehicles.

A Smog Test Is Not Required:

1. For new vehicles purchased from a CA dealer.
2. For vehicles with current and valid permanent CA registration.
3. For 1975 and older vehicles.
4. Diesel powered vehicles 1997 year model and older or with a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVWR) of more than 14,000 lbs.
5. Electric and natural gas powered vehicles with a GVWR of more than 14,000 lbs.
6. Motorcycles.
7. Trailers.
8. For vehicles that are registered out of state, are eight (8) model years old or newer and were purchased from a CA dealer. The owner must show proof that the vehicle was purchased from a CA dealer.

A Smog Test Is Required:

1. For all vehicles registered in a state other than California and have not passed an initial California smog test. This includes all new vehicles that were purchased outside of California.

MCO 5090.2 – Volume 6, Chapter 3, Section 030305 requires vehicles operated on a facility to comply with state requirements even if the vehicle is not registered in that state.

Note: The vehicle must pass ALL areas of the smog test to include emission, functional, and visual areas. The two most common reasons a vehicle will fail a smog test is for the "Check Engine" light being on, and for modifications to the engine/emissions system not approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), even though the modification may be legal in the registration state.

If you have more questions about the Smog Check required by the State of California, please visit:

<http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov/>