

OBD Vehicle "Readiness" Fact Sheet

The OBD (On Board Diagnostic) system is a computer monitoring system. This sophisticated system serves as an early indicator of exceeding the vehicle emissions standards, increasing air pollution and of potential engine damage. An OBD monitor is a computer test or series of computer tests used to determine if an emission control device or system is failing. The vehicle performs the self-diagnostic computer test when the vehicle is driven. This is commonly referred to as a "drive cycle".

If possible, when working on a vehicle either before or after an E-Check OBD II test; **do not** clear the Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTC's) so that the check engine light remains on after the repair(s). Therefore, **if it was the correct repair**, the check engine light will turn off on its own while driving the vehicle through its drive cycle and signals to the driver that the vehicle is ready to be tested. If the check engine light does not turn off, then additional repair(s) may be required. Remind your repair technician that you prefer to keep the check engine light on after the repair(s) if possible.

If the repairs require the computer DTC's to be cleared or a battery disconnect (which also clears DTC's), then be sure to drive the vehicle for at least two or three days (older vehicles may take more time) including both highway and city miles. This will result in setting the OBD monitors to "ready" and ready for an emissions test. Unfortunately, when the DTC's are cleared it turns the check engine light off and it is a guessing game as to when the computer monitors are "ready" or "complete."

Your vehicle performs up to 11 diagnostic checks of specific emission control components such as engine, transmission, fuel systems and other emissions controls. Each diagnostic check communicates with a monitor called a readiness monitor. These diagnostic checks are performed while the vehicle is driven. Certain driving conditions must be met to determine if all components are functioning within allowable standards. If all diagnostic checks have been performed, the computer reports systems as "ready" or "complete." If diagnostic data has been erased during vehicle repairs or through battery disconnection the computer reports systems as "incomplete" or "not ready." Vehicles are rejected from testing when these diagnostic checks are not completed.

How can I get my vehicle to become "ready?"

If your vehicle has recently been repaired or the battery was recently replaced or disconnected:

- Drive the vehicle for approximately two or three days (older vehicles may take more time) under normal driving conditions including highway and city driving. The newer the vehicle the less time it should take. Each time the battery is disconnected or the computer is reset, the drive cycle process needs to be started over.
- Check your vehicle's owner's manual, contact your local dealership or visit www.ohiocheck.org and click on the OBDII Readiness and Communication Failures tile for information on drive cycles.

How can I check if my vehicle is "ready?"

Other than retesting your vehicle, an OBD2 scan tool is the best means for determining if the vehicle's monitors are ready or complete. Some vehicle owner's manuals provide information on how a vehicle owner can determine if the diagnostic system is ready for emissions checking by performing a certain procedure. Most automotive parts stores may do this for you as well. **Please note:** Using the scan tool to reset the readiness monitors will mean the drive cycle process needs to be started over.

My vehicle is not "ready" and my registration is due today. What can I do?

You can take the Vehicle Inspection Report you received at the station, along with your title, to the BMV to apply for a temporary tag registration. Once your vehicle passes the E-Check test, you will be able to complete the registration process and obtain your license plates/stickers. You will not lose the hard plates that are currently on your vehicle.

I have used two temporary tags and my vehicle is still not "ready." What can I do?

If you have your original receipts from repairs done to the vehicle, you may qualify for an extension. The extension would give you time for your readiness monitors to reset to "ready" while allowing you to legally drive the vehicle. Speak with a full-service station manager to see if you qualify or call Ohio EPA at (330) 963-4479 Twinsburg office or (614) 644-3059 Columbus office.

To check the readiness monitor status of your vehicle at the time of inspection, please see the readiness monitors section of the vehicle inspection report. A key to explain the readiness monitor status is below:



Complete – This readiness monitor or self-diagnostic test has been run by your vehicle’s on-board computer.

Not Complete - This readiness monitor or self-diagnostic test has NOT been run by your vehicle’s on-board computer.

N/A – This readiness monitor or self-diagnostic test is not equipped on your vehicle by the manufacturer.

Unsupported - This readiness monitor or self-diagnostic test is equipped on your vehicle by the manufacturer but is no longer present. This issue will need to be corrected before the vehicle will be able to pass the Ohio E Check test.

Remember to test early. If you continue to have repair or readiness/testing issues, please do not wait until the last week of your registration; contact the Ohio EPA at either (614) 644-3059 or (330) 963-4479.

Web based resources:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/air-pollution-control/e-check/06-obd>

www.aa1car.com (external source) *

<http://www.lyberty.com/car/drive-cycle.html> (external source) *

*Special Note: The Ohio EPA does not endorse any web site location, the listing is merely for informational purposes.

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