

## Vehicle Inspection Program Updates and Fee Increase

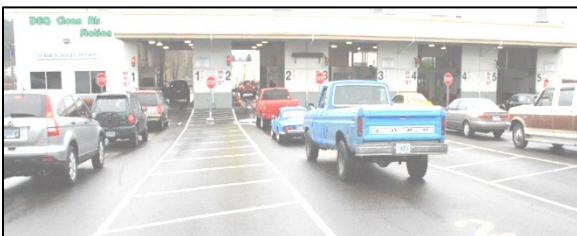
### DEQ Vehicle Inspection Program

DEQ's Vehicle Inspection Program reduces air pollution by requiring motorists in the Portland metropolitan and Medford areas to maintain their vehicles' pollution control systems. Once a car is in its fifth year, a motorist must obtain a certificate of compliance from VIP before they can renew their vehicle registration. VIP inspects light- and heavy-duty gasoline powered vehicles, 1975 and newer in Portland, and 20 years old and newer vehicles in Medford. VIP inspects diesel powered vehicles up to the 8,500 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR).

VIP oversees vehicle testing and related activities. In this role, the program directly performs approximately 700,000 tests annually in the Portland-Metro and Medford areas. The Portland area has six testing stations and performs nearly 600,000 tests annually, in addition to mobile on-site tests performed at fleet facilities. The Medford station performs more than 60,000 vehicle tests each year. The program also offers its customers testing options, such as [DEQ Too, which is](#) offered through public-private partnerships.

For more than 25 years, motorists have been able to renew their registrations while having their vehicles' pollution control systems inspected at a VIP station. The program has continued to offer conveniences, such as self-service testing lanes and remote testing, to improve the customer service experience. In 2018, VIP added DEQ Too to its list of customer-focused testing options. The option complements the program's direct-testing services by enabling motorists to have their cars tested at more than 100 businesses in the Portland-Metro and Medford areas. Learn more about all of VIP's testing options at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Vehicle-Inspection/Pages/default.aspx>.

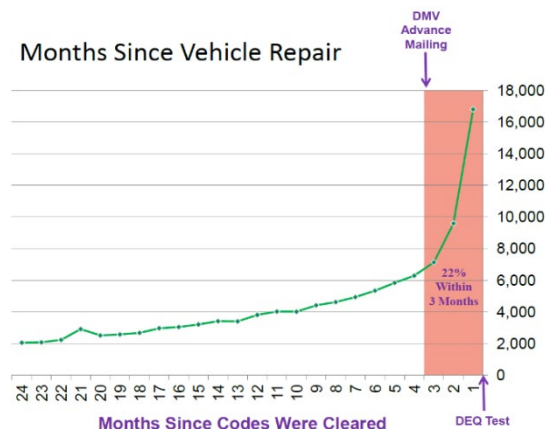


Whichever inspection option is selected, DEQ remains committed to delivering efficient and effective services to its more than one million customers.

### VIP and Air Quality Benefits

VIP testing is one of several strategies that helps Oregon maintain air pollution below nationally set standards. While control of pollution from industrial sources is important, pollutants, such as ozone (smog), nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide come predominantly from motor vehicles. These emissions also contain air toxic pollutants, like benzene, ethylbenzene and acetaldehyde.

In the 1970s and 1980s, air quality in the Portland and Medford areas violated national standards. Since that time, motor vehicle pollution control systems have improved and pollutants emitted from vehicles have decreased substantially. However, urban populations have since increased, as have the average number of vehicle miles traveled. Air quality in the Portland and Medford areas continues to comply with national standards, and ongoing compliance remains an important area of focus for the DEQ VIP program.



Repairs to vehicle pollution control systems increase sharply after motorists receive reminders of upcoming registration and inspection requirements.

An important measure of VIP's success is the extent to which it facilitates the motor vehicle maintenance that underlies reduced emissions. As vehicles acquire more miles, their pollution control systems are more likely to fail. If a pollution control system is not functioning properly, the vehicle may emit up to four times the pollutants of one that is maintained. Testing data reflected above indicates that approximately 20 percent of vehicles tested in the Portland-Metro area are having their pollution



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Vehicle Inspection Program

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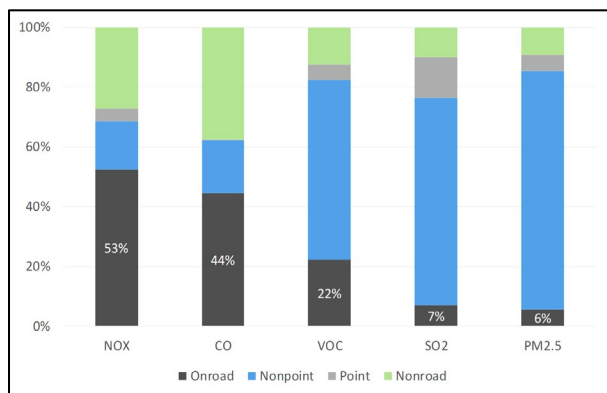
[www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

*DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.*

control systems repaired within three months of inspection.

That is good news and shows that passing a required inspection before registration renewal is an incentive for motorists to keep their vehicles maintained.

DEQ recently calculated the amount of air pollution VIP prevents in a year. The analysis showed that in one year without VIP, volatile organic compound emissions from on-road sources would increase 19 percent (about 1,480 tons) in the Portland-Metro area and 5 percent (about 130 tons) in the Medford area.



*Relative air pollution contributions to the Portland area from four source categories: on-road vehicles, off-road vehicles, point sources and nonpoint sources. NOx = nitrogen oxides, CO = carbon monoxide, VOC = volatile organic compounds, SO2 = sulfur dioxide, PM2.5 = particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers.*

## Fee Increases

VIP's fees, supporting all of its testing services, have not been updated since 1997. On May 7, 2020, the Environmental Quality Commission, DEQ's policy and rulemaking board, approved temporary fee increases for inspection compliance certificates. The new fees are as follows:

Portland-Metro Vehicle Inspection Area  
\$25 (An increase of \$4)

Medford Vehicle Inspection Area  
\$15/\$20 (An increase of \$5/\$10\*)

On-site Testing Auto Dealerships  
\$30 (An increase of \$4)

The increases went into effect as of June 1, 2020. Later that year, the Environmental Quality Commission approved DEQ's request to extend the increases to June 30, 2021 and make them permanent. On June 25, 2021, the Oregon State Legislature approved the Commission's decision to make the fee increases permanent.

DEQ has been working with the Commission, stakeholders and the Oregon State Legislature to examine and adjust fees for nearly three years. The agency appointed an advisory committee to review the fiscal effects of the VIP fee increase. That committee met on Oct. 4, 2018, and DEQ posted the summary of that meeting and the resulting comments on the [VIP Updates 2019 rulemaking web page](#).

The fee increases enable VIP to maintain its full range of services, and provide the staff necessary to meet expanding testing demands. Without sufficient staffing, DEQ would need to close lanes at testing sites and potentially close an entire station. Lane or station closures would increase customer wait times and possibly compromise employee and public safety as lines of vehicles can cause congestion on adjoining roadways.

\*The permanent fee raise includes a second \$5 fee increase for the Medford Clean Air Station, bringing that fee to \$20, effective July 1, 2021.

## Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).