



FACT SHEET

In re: Proposed revisions to Air Pollution Control Regulation 34 - Rhode Island Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program

Introduction

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Office of Air Resources, is proposing to amend air pollution control regulation, 250-RICR-120-05-34, Rhode Island Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program (Part 34). Part 34 specifies requirements for Rhode Islands' Motor Vehicle Inspection Program.

Description of Proposed Amendments

Vehicles subject to the Rhode Island I/M Program will continue to be inspected for compliance with the vehicle emissions standards using an evaporative emissions inspection, an on-board diagnostic (OBD) inspection, and a visual emissions control component inspection. Gasoline vehicles model year 1996 and newer and OBD equipped diesel vehicles will be tested with OBD, if equipped. If OBD is not present an emissions control component inspection will be performed. Gasoline vehicles model year 1995 and older and diesel-powered vehicles model year 1996 and older will be subject to an emissions control component inspection. All vehicles will be subject to the evaporative emissions inspection which is a visual fuel cap inspection to determine if the fuel cap is present and free of defects.

Portions of the regulation that no longer apply have been eliminated. The regulation has been updated to current RI Code of Regulations (RICR) format which required the addition of an incorporated materials section.

Demonstration of Need

Currently, vehicles are subject to emissions testing at a service station every two years using the RI2000 test analyzer. As the fleet of vehicles in RI has turned over, the need for emissions testing at a service station using the RI2000 has decreased as the majority of motor vehicles in the state are equipped with OBD which monitors the vehicle exhaust stream. If there is a problem detected with an emissions control system the malfunction indicator lamp will be illuminated on the vehicles' information center. Vehicles subject to the Rhode Island I/M Program will continue to be inspected for compliance with the vehicle emissions standards using an evaporative emissions inspection, an on-board diagnostic inspection, and a visual emissions control component inspection.

Additionally, in 2016, the state revised the Administrative Procedures Act to require that every state regulation be rewritten into the new RICR format by December 31, 2018 or it will no longer be enforceable. In order to meet this requirement, Part 34 is being revised to the required RICR format which included the addition of an incorporated materials section.

Alternative Approaches Considered

No alternative approaches were considered.

Identification of Overlapped or Duplicated State Regulations

The Office of Air Resources has identified no state regulations that overlap or duplicate the proposed amendments.

Determination of Significant Adverse Economic Impact on Small Business or Any City or Town

The proposed revisions do not impose any new requirements on regulated entities including any small businesses or any city or town, therefore there is no significant adverse economic impact.

For more information or copies of the proposed amendments contact:

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