

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ, agency, or commission) proposes amendments to §§114.1, 114.50, and 114.82.

If adopted, amended §§114.1, 114.50, and 114.82 will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) in a future SIP revision.

### **Background and Summary of the Factual Basis for the Proposed Rules**

Senate Bill (SB) 604, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019, added digital license plates to Chapter 504 of the Texas Transportation Code (TTC). This proposed rulemaking would update TCEQ rules to be consistent with the TTC, relating to the display of a vehicle's registration insignia for certain commercial fleet or governmental entity vehicles on a digital license plate in lieu of attaching the registration insignia to the vehicle's windshield.

The inspection and maintenance (I/M) rules require the TCEQ to implement the I/M program in conjunction with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). Currently, motorists are required to demonstrate compliance with the I/M program by displaying a current valid vehicle registration insignia sticker affixed to the vehicle's windshield, a current valid vehicle inspection report (VIR), or other form of proof authorized by the DPS. The I/M rules also require denying renewal of registration until a vehicle complies with I/M program requirements.

### **Demonstrating Noninterference under Federal Clean Air Act, §110(l)**

The proposed amendments to Chapter 114 would allow a digital license plate in lieu of attaching the registration insignia to the vehicle's windshield. Because the emissions inspection is still required within 90 days of the registration expiration, these amendments are not intended or expected to impact the compliance rate and the effectiveness of the I/M program. The proposed rulemaking would not negatively impact the state's progress towards attainment of the 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

### **Section by Section Discussion**

The following proposed amendments would ensure compliance with Chapter 504 of the TTC and that proof of compliance with I/M requirements are consistent between the TCEQ, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the DPS.

The commission proposes non-substantive changes to update the rules in accordance with current *Texas Register* style and format requirements, improve readability, establish consistency in the rules, and conform to the standards in the Texas Legislative Council Drafting Manual, September 2020. These non-substantive changes are not intended to alter the existing rule requirements in any way and are not specifically discussed in this preamble.

### **§114.1, Definitions**

The current definition for vehicle registration insignia sticker includes language that it be affixed on the windshield of a vehicle. The proposed revisions remove the restrictive language and add language to allow for alternative forms of proof of compliance with I/M requirements provided for by the DPS or the DMV.

### **§114.50, Vehicle Emissions Inspection Requirements**

The proposed revisions to §114.50(b)(1)(B) remove language for affixing the vehicle registration insignia sticker to the vehicle windshield. In addition, the proposed revisions add language to allow for different forms of proof of compliance with I/M requirements provided by the DPS and the DMV.

### **§114.82, Control Requirements**

The proposed revisions to §114.82(a)(2) remove language for affixing the vehicle registration insignia sticker to the vehicle windshield. In addition, the proposed revisions add language to allow for different forms of proof of compliance with I/M requirements provided by the DPS and the DMV.

### **Fiscal Note: Costs to State and Local Government**

Jené Bearse, Acting Deputy Director of the Budget and Planning Division, has determined that for the first five-year period the proposed rules are in effect, no fiscal implications are anticipated for the agency or for other units of state or local

government as a result of administration or enforcement of the proposed rules.

### **Public Benefits and Costs**

Ms. Bears determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed rules are in effect, the public benefit anticipated would be continued compliance with the Texas Transportation Code. The proposed rulemaking is not anticipated to result in fiscal implications for businesses or individuals.

### **Local Employment Impact Statement**

The commission reviewed this proposed rulemaking and determined that a Local Employment Impact Statement is not required because the proposed rulemaking does not adversely affect a local economy in a material way for the first five years that the proposed rules are in effect.

### **Rural Communities Impact Assessment**

The commission reviewed this proposed rulemaking and determined that the proposed rulemaking does not adversely affect rural communities in a material way for the first five years that the proposed rules are in effect. The amendments would apply statewide and have the same effect in rural communities as in urban communities.

### **Small Business and Micro-Business Assessment**

No adverse fiscal implications are anticipated for small or micro-businesses due to the

implementation or administration of the proposed rules for the first five-year period the proposed rules are in effect.

### **Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Analysis**

The commission reviewed this proposed rulemaking and determined that a Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required because the proposed rules do not adversely affect a small or micro-business in a material way for the first five years the proposed rules are in effect.

### **Government Growth Impact Statement**

The commission prepared a Government Growth Impact Statement assessment for this proposed rulemaking. The proposed rulemaking does not create or eliminate a government program and will not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency. The proposed rulemaking does not require the creation of new employee positions, eliminate current employee positions, nor require an increase or decrease in fees paid to the agency. The proposed rulemaking does not create, expand, repeal, or limit an existing regulation, nor does the proposed rulemaking increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to its applicability. During the first five years, the proposed rules would not impact positively or negatively the state's economy.

### **Draft Regulatory Impact Analysis Determination**

The commission reviewed the proposed rulemaking in light of the regulatory analysis requirements of Texas Government Code (TGC), §2001.0225, and determined that the proposed rules do not meet the definition of a "Major environmental rule." TGC, §2001.0225(g)(3), states that a "Major environmental rule" is "a rule the specific intent of which is to protect the environment or reduce risks to human health from environmental exposure and that may adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, or the public health and safety of the state or a sector of the state." The proposed rulemaking does not constitute a major environmental rule under TGC, §2001.0225(g)(3), because: (1) the specific intent of the proposed rulemaking is not to protect the environment or reduce risks to human health from environmental exposure, but rather to modify administrative aspects of an existing program by implementing SB 604, which allows the display of a vehicle's registration insignia for certain commercial fleet or governmental entity vehicles on a digital license plate in lieu of attaching the registration insignia to the vehicle's windshield; and (2) as discussed in the Fiscal Note, Public Benefits And Costs, Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, and the Local Employment Impact Statement sections of this preamble, the proposed rulemaking would not adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, or jobs, nor would the proposed rules adversely affect in a material way the environment, or the public health and safety of the state or a sector of the state because the amendments are merely administrative changes to the existing

program.

Additionally, the proposed rulemaking does not meet any of the four applicability criteria for requiring a regulatory impact analysis for a major environmental rule. TGC, §2001.0225, applies only to a major environmental rule which: (1) exceeds a standard set by federal law, unless the rule is specifically required by state law; (2) exceeds an express requirement of state law, unless the rule is specifically required by federal law; (3) exceeds a requirement of a delegation agreement or contract between the state and an agency or representative of the federal government to implement a state and federal program; or (4) adopts a rule solely under the general powers of the agency instead of under a specific state law.

The specific intent of the proposed rulemaking is to implement applicable sections of SB 604, relating to the display of a vehicle's registration insignia. SB 604 allows the display of a vehicle's registration insignia for certain commercial fleet or governmental entity vehicles on a digital license plate in lieu of attaching the registration insignia to the vehicle's windshield. The proposed rulemaking: (1) does not exceed a standard set by federal law; (2) does not exceed an express requirement of state law; (3) is not proposed solely under the general powers of the agency; and (4) does not exceed a requirement of a delegation agreement or contract to implement a state and federal program. Because the proposed rulemaking is not a major environmental rule, it is not subject to a regulatory impact analysis under TGC, §2001.0225.

Written comments on the Draft Regulatory Impact Analysis Determination may be submitted to the contact person at the address listed under the Submittal of Comments section of this preamble.

### **Takings Impact Assessment**

The commission evaluated the proposed rules and performed an analysis of whether the proposed rules constitute a taking under TGC, Chapter 2007. The commission's preliminary assessment indicates TGC, Chapter 2007, does not apply.

Under TGC, §2007.002(5), taking means: (A) a governmental action that affects private real property, in whole or in part or temporarily or permanently, in a manner that requires the governmental entity to compensate the private real property owner as provided by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution or Section 17 or 19, Article I, Texas Constitution; or (B) a governmental action that: (i) affects an owner's private real property that is the subject of the governmental action, in whole or in part or temporarily or permanently, in a manner that restricts or limits the owner's right to the property that would otherwise exist in the absence of the governmental action; and (ii) is the producing cause of a reduction of at least 25% in the market value of the affected private real property, determined by comparing the market value of the property as if the governmental action is not in effect and the



market value of the property determined as if the governmental action is in effect.

The specific purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to implement applicable sections of SB 604, relating to the display of a vehicle's registration insignia sticker. SB 604 allows the display of a vehicle's registration insignia for certain commercial fleet or governmental entity vehicles on a digital license plate in lieu of attaching the registration insignia to the vehicle's windshield. Therefore, the proposed rulemaking does not have any impact on private real property.

Promulgation and enforcement of the proposed rules would be neither a statutory nor a constitutional taking of private real property. These rules would not be burdensome, restrictive, or limiting of rights to private real property because the proposed rules do not affect a landowner's rights in private real property. This rulemaking does not burden, restrict, or limit the owner's right to property, nor does it reduce the value of any private real property by 25% or more beyond that which would otherwise exist in the absence of the regulations. Therefore, these rules would not constitute a taking under TGC, Chapter 2007.

### **Consistency with the Coastal Management Program**

The commission reviewed the proposed rules and found that they are neither identified in Coastal Coordination Act implementation rules, 31 TAC §505.11(b)(2) or (4), nor would they affect any action/authorization identified in Coastal Coordination

Act implementation rules, 31 TAC §505.11(a)(6). Therefore, the proposed rules are not subject to the Texas Coastal Management Program.

Written comments on the consistency of this rulemaking may be submitted to the contact person at the address listed under the Submittal of Comments section of this preamble.

### **Announcement of Virtual Hearing**

The commission will hold a virtual public hearing on this proposal on **January 4, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.** The virtual hearing is structured for the receipt of oral or written comments by interested persons. Individuals may present oral statements when called upon in order of registration. Open discussion will not be permitted during the hearing; however, staff will be available to discuss the proposal 30 minutes prior to the hearing and after the virtual hearing via the Teams Live Event Question & Answer chat function.

### **Registration**

The hearing will be conducted remotely using an internet meeting service. Individuals who plan to attend the hearing and want to provide oral comments and/or want their attendance on record must register by Monday, **January 3, 2022**. To register for the hearing, please email [Rules@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Rules@tceq.texas.gov) and provide the following information: your name, your affiliation, your email address, your phone number, and whether or not

you plan to provide oral comments during the hearing. Instructions for participating in the hearing will be sent on **January 3, 2022**, to those who register for the hearing.

For the public who do not wish to provide oral comments but would like to view the hearing may do so at no cost at:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MmM0MTczNDAtY2MyNS00NDM2LWJiMjMtNGJlZWJMTI0MDc0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22871a83a4-a1ce-4b7a-8156-3bcd93a08fba%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2230ec010b-ff0b-4618-bbc4-622a14f9cb18%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmM0MTczNDAtY2MyNS00NDM2LWJiMjMtNGJlZWJMTI0MDc0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22871a83a4-a1ce-4b7a-8156-3bcd93a08fba%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2230ec010b-ff0b-4618-bbc4-622a14f9cb18%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a)

Persons who have special communication or other accommodation needs who are planning to register to provide formal oral comments and/or attend the hearing should contact Sandy Wong, Office of Legal Services at (512) 239-1802 or 1-800-RELAYTX (TDD). Requests should be made as far in advance as possible.

### **Submittal of Comments**

Written comments may be submitted to Cecilia Mena, MC 205, Office of Legal Services, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to [fax4808@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:fax4808@tceq.texas.gov). Electronic comments may be submitted at: <https://www6.tceq.texas.gov/rules/ecomments/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the eComments system. All comments should reference

Rule Project Number 2021-029-114-AI. The comment period closes on January 5, 2022.

Copies of the proposed rulemaking can be obtained from the commission's website at

[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/propose\\_adopt.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/propose_adopt.html). For further information, please

contact Nicholas Landuyt, Air Quality Planning Section, (512) 239-4905.

## **SUBCHAPTER A: DEFINITIONS**

### **§114.1**

#### **Statutory Authority**

The amendments are proposed under Texas Water Code (TWC), §5.102, General Powers; TWC, §5.103, Rules; and TWC, §5.105, General Policy, which provide the commission with the general powers to carry out its duties and authorize the commission to propose rules necessary to carry out its powers and duties under the TWC; and TWC, §5.013, General Jurisdiction of Commission, which states the commission's authority over various statutory programs. The revisions are also proposed under Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), §382.017, Rules, which authorizes the commission to propose rules consistent with the policy and purposes of THSC, Chapter 382 (Texas Clean Air Act), and to propose rules that differentiate among particular conditions, particular sources, and particular areas of the state. The revisions are also proposed under THSC, §382.002, Policy and Purpose, which establishes the commission's purpose to safeguard the state's air resources, consistent with the protection of public health, general welfare, and physical property; THSC, §382.011, General Powers and Duties, which authorizes the commission to control the quality of the state's air; THSC, §382.012, State Air Control Plan, which authorizes the commission to prepare and develop a general, comprehensive plan for the control of the state's air; THSC, §382.019, Methods Used to Control and Reduce Emissions From Land Vehicles, which provides the commission the authority to propose rules to control and reduce emissions from engines used to propel land vehicles; THSC,

Chapter 382, Subchapter G, Vehicle Emissions, which provides the commission the authority by rule to establish, implement, and administer a program requiring emissions-related inspections of motor vehicles to be performed at inspection facilities consistent with the requirements of Federal Clean Air Act, 42 United States Code, §§7401 et seq.; and THSC, Chapter 382, Subchapter H, Vehicle Emissions Programs in Certain Counties, which authorizes the commission to propose an inspection and maintenance program for participating early action compact counties.

The rule revisions implement amendments to Texas Transportation Code, §§504.151 - 504.157, which were amended by Senate Bill 604, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019.

**§114.1. Definitions.**

Unless specifically defined in Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 382, also known as the Texas Clean Air Act (TCAA) or in the rules of the commission, the terms used by the commission have the meanings commonly ascribed to them in the field of air pollution control. In addition to the terms which are defined by the TCAA, the following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Dual-fuel vehicle--Any motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine engineered and designed to be operated on two different fuels, but not a mixture of the two.

(2) Emergency vehicle--A vehicle defined as an authorized emergency vehicle according to Texas Transportation Code, §541.201(1).

(3) Emissions--The emissions of oxides of nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, particulate, or any combination of these substances.

(4) First safety inspection certificate--Initial Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) certificates issued through DPS-certified inspection stations for every new vehicle found to be in compliance with the rules and regulations governing safety inspections. Beginning on the single sticker transition date as defined in this section, the safety inspection certificates will no longer be used.

(5) First vehicle registration--Initial vehicle registration insignia sticker issued through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for every new vehicle found to be in compliance with the rules and regulations governing vehicle registration prior to the single sticker transition date as defined in this section and vehicle registration and safety inspections beginning on the single sticker transition date.

(6) Gross vehicle weight rating--The value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum design loaded weight of a vehicle. This is the weight as expressed on the vehicle's registration, and includes the weight the vehicle can carry or draw.

(7) Heavy-duty vehicle--Any passenger vehicle or truck capable of transporting people, equipment, or cargo, that has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 8,500 pounds, and is required to be registered under Texas Transportation Code, §502.002. For purposes of the mobile emission reduction credit trading program the heavy-duty class is divided into the following subclasses:

(A) Light heavy-duty vehicle--Any passenger vehicle or truck capable of transporting people, equipment, or cargo that has a GVWR greater than 8,500 pounds, but less than or equal to 10,000 pounds.

(B) Medium heavy-duty vehicle--Any passenger vehicle or truck capable of transporting people, equipment, or cargo that has a GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds, but less than or equal to 19,500 pounds.

(C) Heavy heavy-duty vehicle--Any passenger vehicle or truck capable of transporting people, equipment, or cargo that has a GVWR greater than 19,500 pounds.



(8) Inherently low emission vehicle--A vehicle as defined by 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 88.

(9) Law enforcement vehicle--Any vehicle controlled by a local government and primarily operated by a civilian or military police officer or sheriff, or by state highway patrols, or other similar law enforcement agencies, and used for the purpose of law enforcement activities including, but not limited to, chase, apprehension, surveillance, or patrol of people engaged in or potentially engaged in unlawful activities.

(10) Light-duty vehicle--Any passenger vehicle or truck capable of transporting people, equipment, or cargo that has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) less than or equal to 8,500 pounds and registered or required to be registered under Texas Transportation Code, §502.002. For purposes of the mobile emission reduction credit trading program the light-duty class is divided into the following subclasses:

(A) Light-duty vehicle--Any passenger vehicle capable of seating 12 or fewer passengers that has a GVWR less than or equal to 6,000 pounds.

(B) Light-duty truck 1--Any passenger truck capable of transporting people, equipment, or cargo that has a GVWR less than or equal to 6,000 pounds.

(C) Light-duty truck 2--Any passenger truck capable of transporting people, equipment, or cargo that has a GVWR greater than 6,000 pounds but less than or equal to 8,500 pounds.

(11) Loaded mode inspection and maintenance test--A measurement of the tailpipe exhaust emissions of a vehicle while the drive wheel rotates on a dynamometer, which simulates the full weight of the vehicle driving down a level roadway. Loaded test equipment specifications must meet United States Environmental Protection Agency requirements for acceleration simulation mode equipment.

(12) Low emission vehicle (LEV)--A vehicle in a class or category of vehicles that has been certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for any model year to meet:

(A) the LEV standards applicable under 42 United States Code, Part C, Subchapter II, §§7581 et seq.; [*et seq.*] or

(B) emission limits at least as stringent as the applicable LEV standards for the Federal Clean Fuel Fleet program under 40 Code of Federal Regulations §§88.104-94, 88.105-94, and 88.311-93, as published in the *Federal Register* on September 30, 1994 (59 FR 50042).

(13) Mass transit authority--A transportation or transit authority or department established under Chapter 141, 63rd Legislature (1973), as defined in Texas Transportation Code, Chapters 451 - 453 (relating to Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authorities, Regional Transportation Authorities, and Municipal Transit Departments) that operates a mass transit system under any of those laws.

(14) Reformulated gasoline--Gasoline that has been certified as a reformulated gasoline under the federal certification regulations adopted in accordance with 42 United States Code, §7545(k).

(15) Single sticker transition date--The transition date of the single sticker system is the later of March 1, 2015, or the date that the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and the Texas Department of Public Safety concurrently implement the single sticker system required by Texas Transportation Code, §502.047.

(16) Texas Inspection and Maintenance State Implementation Plan--The portion of the Texas state implementation plan that includes the procedures and

requirements of the vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program as adopted by the commission May 29, 1996, in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 51, Subpart S, issued November 5, 1992; the United States Environmental Protection Agency flexibility amendments dated September 18, 1995; and the National Highway Systems Designation Act of 1995. A copy of the Texas Inspection and Maintenance State Implementation Plan is available at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, Texas, 78753; mailing address: P.O. Box 13087, MC 166, Austin, Texas 78711-3087.

(17) Tier I federal emission standards--The standards are defined in 42 United States Code, §7521, and in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 86. The phase-in of these standards began in model year 1994.

(18) Ultra low emission vehicle--A vehicle as defined by 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 88.

(19) Vehicle registration--Vehicle characteristics, corresponding owner information, and registration expiration date contained in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles registration system.

(20) Vehicle registration insignia sticker--The sticker issued through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or county tax assessor-collector for [to be

affixed on the windshield of] a vehicle compliant with the DMV regulations. Beginning on the single sticker transition date as defined in this section, the vehicle registration insignia sticker, a current valid VIR, or other form of proof authorized by the DPS or the DMV will be used as proof of compliance with inspection and maintenance program requirements, the DMV's rules and regulations governing vehicle registration, and the Texas Department of Public Safety's rules and regulations governing safety inspections.

(21) Zero emission vehicle--A vehicle as defined by 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 88.

**SUBCHAPTER C: VEHICLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE; LOW INCOME VEHICLE  
REPAIR ASSISTANCE, RETROFIT, AND ACCELERATED VEHICLE RETIREMENT  
PROGRAM; AND EARLY ACTION COMPACT COUNTIES  
DIVISION 1: VEHICLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

**§114.50**

**Statutory Authority**

The amendments are proposed under Texas Water Code (TWC), §5.102, General Powers; TWC, §5.103, Rules; and TWC, §5.105, General Policy, which provide the commission with the general powers to carry out its duties and authorize the commission to propose rules necessary to carry out its powers and duties under the TWC; and TWC, §5.013, General Jurisdiction of Commission, which states the commission's authority over various statutory programs. The revisions are also proposed under Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), §382.017, Rules, which authorizes the commission to propose rules consistent with the policy and purposes of THSC, Chapter 382 (Texas Clean Air Act), and to propose rules that differentiate among particular conditions, particular sources, and particular areas of the state. The revisions are also proposed under THSC, §382.002, Policy and Purpose, which establishes the commission's purpose to safeguard the state's air resources, consistent with the protection of public health, general welfare, and physical property; THSC, §382.011, General Powers and Duties, which authorizes the commission to control the quality of the state's air; THSC, §382.012, State Air Control Plan, which authorizes the commission to prepare and develop a general, comprehensive plan for the control of

the state's air; THSC, §382.019, Methods Used to Control and Reduce Emissions From Land Vehicles, which provides the commission the authority to propose rules to control and reduce emissions from engines used to propel land vehicles; THSC, Chapter 382, Subchapter G, Vehicle Emissions, which provides the commission the authority by rule to establish, implement, and administer a program requiring emissions-related inspections of motor vehicles to be performed at inspection facilities consistent with the requirements of Federal Clean Air Act, 42 United States Code, §§7401 et seq.; and THSC, Chapter 382, Subchapter H, Vehicle Emissions Programs in Certain Counties, which authorizes the commission to propose an inspection and maintenance program for participating early action compact counties.

The rule revisions implement amendments to Texas Transportation Code, §§504.151 - 504.157, which were amended by Senate Bill 604, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019.

**§114.50. Vehicle Emissions Inspection Requirements.**

(a) Applicability. The requirements of this section and those contained in the Texas Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) State Implementation Plan (SIP) must be applied to all gasoline-powered motor vehicles 2 - 24 years old and subject to an annual emissions inspection beginning with the first safety inspection. Military tactical vehicles, motorcycles, diesel-powered vehicles, dual-fueled vehicles that cannot operate using gasoline, and antique vehicles registered with the Texas Department of Motor

Vehicles are excluded from the program. Safety inspection facilities and inspectors certified by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) must inspect all subject vehicles in the following program areas as defined in §114.2 of this title (relating to Inspection and Maintenance Definitions), in accordance with the following schedule.

(1) This paragraph applies to all vehicles registered and primarily operated in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) program area.

(A) Beginning May 1, 2002, all 1996 and newer model year vehicles registered and primarily operated in Collin, Dallas, Denton, and Tarrant Counties equipped with on-board diagnostic (OBD) systems must be tested using United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved OBD test procedures.

(B) Beginning May 1, 2002, all pre-1996 model year vehicles registered and primarily operated in Collin, Dallas, Denton, and Tarrant Counties must be tested using an acceleration simulation mode (ASM-2) test or a vehicle emissions test approved by the EPA.

(C) All vehicle emissions inspection stations in affected program areas must offer both the ASM-2 test and the OBD test except low volume emissions inspection stations. If an owner or operator wishes to have his or her station classified



as a low volume emissions inspection station, the station owner or operator shall petition the DPS in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the DPS.

(2) This paragraph applies to all vehicles registered and primarily operated in the extended DFW (EDFW) program area.

(A) Beginning May 1, 2003, all 1996 and newer model year vehicles registered and primarily operated in Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, and Rockwall Counties equipped with OBD systems must be tested using EPA-approved OBD test procedures.

(B) Beginning May 1, 2003, all pre-1996 model year vehicles registered and primarily operated in Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, and Rockwall Counties must be tested using an ASM-2 test or a vehicle emissions test approved by the EPA.

(C) All vehicle emissions inspection stations in affected program areas must offer both the ASM-2 test and the OBD test except low volume emissions inspection stations. If an owner or operator wishes to have his or her station classified as a low volume emissions inspection station, the station owner or operator shall petition the DPS in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the DPS.

(3) This paragraph applies to all vehicles registered and primarily operated in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) program area.

(A) Beginning May 1, 2002, all 1996 and newer model year vehicles registered and primarily operated in Harris County equipped with OBD systems must be tested using EPA-approved OBD test procedures.

(B) Beginning May 1, 2002, all pre-1996 model year vehicles registered and primarily operated in Harris County must be tested using an ASM-2 test or a vehicle emissions test approved by the EPA.

(C) All vehicle emissions inspection stations in affected program areas must offer both the ASM-2 test and the OBD test except low volume emissions inspection stations. If an owner or operator wishes to have his or her station classified as a low volume emissions inspection station, the station owner or operator shall petition the DPS in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the DPS.

(D) Beginning May 1, 2003, all 1996 and newer model year vehicles equipped with OBD systems and registered and primarily operated in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, and Montgomery Counties must be tested using EPA-approved OBD test procedures.

(E) Beginning May 1, 2003, all pre-1996 model year vehicles registered and primarily operated in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, and Montgomery Counties must be tested using the ASM-2 test procedures or a vehicle emissions test approved by the EPA.

(4) This paragraph applies to all vehicles registered and primarily operated in the El Paso program area.

(A) All vehicles must be tested using a two-speed idle (TSI) test through December 31, 2006.

(B) Beginning January 1, 2007, all 1996 and newer model year vehicles equipped with OBD systems must be tested using EPA-approved OBD test procedures.

(C) Beginning January 1, 2007, all pre-1996 model year vehicles must be tested using a TSI test.

(D) Beginning January 1, 2007, all vehicle emissions inspection stations in the El Paso program area must offer both the TSI test and OBD test.

(b) Control requirements.

(1) No person or entity may operate, or allow the operation of, a motor vehicle registered in the DFW, EDFW, HGB, and El Paso program areas that does not comply with:

(A) all applicable air pollution emissions control-related requirements included in the annual vehicle safety inspection requirements administered by the DPS as evidenced prior to the single sticker transition date as defined in §114.1 of this title (relating to Definitions) by a current valid inspection certificate affixed to the vehicle windshield, a current valid vehicle inspection report (VIR), or other form of proof authorized by the DPS;

(B) beginning on the single sticker transition date, all applicable air pollution emissions control-related requirements included in the annual vehicle safety inspection requirements administered by the DPS, as evidenced by a current valid vehicle registration insignia sticker [affixed to the vehicle windshield], a current valid VIR, or other form of proof authorized by the DPS or the DMV; and

(C) the vehicle emissions I/M requirements contained in this subchapter.

(2) All federal government agencies must require a motor vehicle operated by any federal government agency employee on any property or facility under the jurisdiction of the federal government agency and located in a program area to comply with all vehicle emissions I/M requirements specified in Texas Health and Safety Code, Subchapter G, §§382.201 - 382.216 (concerning Vehicle Emissions), and this chapter. Commanding officers or directors of federal facilities shall certify annually to the executive director, or appointed designee, that all subject vehicles have been tested and are in compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act (42 United States Code, §§7401 et seq.) [*et seq.*]. This requirement will not apply to visiting federal government agency, employee, or military personnel vehicles as long as such visits do not exceed 60 calendar days per year.

(3) Any motorist in the DFW, EDFW, HGB, or El Paso program areas who has received a notice from an emissions inspection station that there are recall items unresolved on his or her motor vehicle should furnish proof of compliance with the recall notice prior to the next vehicle emissions inspection, such as a written statement from the dealership or leasing agency indicating that emissions repairs have been completed.

(4) A motorist whose vehicle has failed an emissions test may request a challenge retest through the DPS. If the retest is conducted within 15 days of the initial inspection, the retest is free.

(5) A motorist whose vehicle has failed an emissions test and has not requested a challenge retest or whose vehicle has failed a challenge retest shall have emissions-related repairs performed and submit a properly completed vehicle repair form (VRF) in order to receive a retest. In order to receive a waiver or time extension, the motorist shall submit a VRF or applicable documentation as deemed necessary by the DPS.

(6) A motorist whose vehicle is registered in the DFW, EDFW, HGB, or El Paso program areas or in any county adjacent to a program area and whose vehicle has failed an on-road test administered by the DPS shall:

(A) submit the vehicle for an out-of-cycle vehicle emissions inspection within 30 days of written notice by the DPS; and

(B) satisfy all inspection, extension, or waiver requirements of the vehicle emissions I/M program specified in 37 TAC Chapter 23, Subchapter E (relating to Vehicle Emissions Inspection and [And] Maintenance Program).

(7) A subject vehicle registered in a county without an I/M program that meets the applicability criteria of subsection (a) of this section and the ownership of which has changed through a retail sale as defined by Texas Occupations Code,

§2301.002, is not eligible for title receipt or registration in a county with an I/M program unless proof is presented that the vehicle has passed an approved vehicle emissions inspection within 90 days before the title transfer. The evidence of proof required may be in the form of the vehicle inspection report (VIR) or another proof of the program compliance as authorized by the DPS. All 1996 and newer model year vehicles with less than 50,000 miles are exempt from the test-on-resale requirements of this paragraph.

(8) State, governmental, and quasi-governmental agencies that fall outside the normal registration or inspection process must comply with all vehicle emissions I/M requirements for vehicles primarily operated in I/M program areas.

(c) Waivers and extensions. A motorist may apply to the DPS for a waiver or an extension as specified in 37 TAC Chapter 23, Subchapter E, which defers the need for full compliance with vehicle emissions standards for a specified period of time after failing a vehicle emissions inspection.

(d) Prohibitions.

(1) No person may issue or allow the issuance of a VIR, as authorized by the DPS unless all applicable air pollution emissions control-related requirements of the annual vehicle safety inspection and the vehicle emissions I/M requirements are

completely and properly performed in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the DPS and the commission. Prior to taking any enforcement action regarding this provision, the commission must consult with the DPS.

(2) Before the single sticker transition date as defined in §114.1 of this title, no person may allow or participate in the preparation, duplication, sale, distribution, or use of false, counterfeit, or stolen safety inspection certificates, VIRs, VRFs, vehicle emissions repair documentation, or other documents that may be used to circumvent applicable vehicle emissions I/M requirements and to commit an offense specified in Texas Transportation Code, §548.603 (concerning Fictitious or Counterfeit Inspection Certificate or Insurance Document). Beginning on the single sticker transition date, no person may allow or participate in the preparation, duplication, sale, distribution, or use of false, counterfeit, or stolen vehicle registration insignia stickers, VIRs, VRFs, vehicle emissions repair documentation, or other documents that may be used to circumvent applicable vehicle emissions I/M requirements and to commit an offense specified in Texas Transportation Code, §548.603.

(3) No organization, business, person, or other entity may represent itself as an emissions inspector certified by the DPS unless such certification has been issued under the certification requirements and procedures contained in Texas Transportation Code, §§548.401 - 548.404.



(4) No person may act as or offer to perform services as a Recognized Emissions Repair Technician of Texas, as designated by the DPS, without first obtaining and maintaining DPS recognition.

**SUBCHAPTER C: VEHICLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE; LOW INCOME VEHICLE  
REPAIR ASSISTANCE, RETROFIT, AND ACCELERATED VEHICLE RETIREMENT  
PROGRAM; AND EARLY ACTION COMPACT COUNTIES  
DIVISION 3: EARLY ACTION COMPACT COUNTIES**

**§114.82**

**Statutory Authority**

The amendments are proposed under Texas Water Code (TWC), §5.102, General Powers; TWC, §5.103, Rules; and TWC, §5.105, General Policy, which provide the commission with the general powers to carry out its duties and authorize the commission to propose rules necessary to carry out its powers and duties under the TWC; and TWC, §5.013, General Jurisdiction of Commission, which states the commission's authority over various statutory programs. The revisions are also proposed under Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), §382.017, Rules, which authorizes the commission to propose rules consistent with the policy and purposes of THSC, Chapter 382 (Texas Clean Air Act), and to propose rules that differentiate among particular conditions, particular sources, and particular areas of the state. The revisions are also proposed under THSC, §382.002, Policy and Purpose, which establishes the commission's purpose to safeguard the state's air resources, consistent with the protection of public health, general welfare, and physical property; THSC, §382.011, General Powers and Duties, which authorizes the commission to control the quality of the state's air; THSC, §382.012, State Air Control Plan, which authorizes the commission to prepare and develop a general, comprehensive plan for the control of

the state's air; THSC, §382.019, Methods Used to Control and Reduce Emissions From Land Vehicles, which provides the commission the authority to propose rules to control and reduce emissions from engines used to propel land vehicles; THSC, Chapter 382, Subchapter G, Vehicle Emissions, which provides the commission the authority by rule to establish, implement, and administer a program requiring emissions-related inspections of motor vehicles to be performed at inspection facilities consistent with the requirements of Federal Clean Air Act, 42 United States Code, §§7401 et seq.; and THSC, Chapter 382, Subchapter H, Vehicle Emissions Programs in Certain Counties, which authorizes the commission to propose an inspection and maintenance program for participating early action compact counties.

The rule revisions implement amendments to Texas Transportation Code, §§504.151 - 504.157, which were amended by Senate Bill 604, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019.

**§114.82. Control Requirements.**

(a) No person or entity may operate, or allow the operation of, a motor vehicle registered in the affected early action compact (EAC) counties that does not comply with:

(1) all applicable air pollution emissions control-related requirements included in the annual vehicle safety inspection requirements administered by the

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as evidenced prior to the single sticker transition date as defined in §114.1 of this title (relating to Definitions) by a current valid inspection certificate affixed to the vehicle windshield, a current valid vehicle inspection report (VIR), or other form of proof authorized by the DPS;

(2) beginning on the single sticker transition date, all applicable air pollution emissions control-related requirements included in the annual vehicle safety inspection requirements administered by the DPS as evidenced by a current valid vehicle registration insignia sticker [affixed to the vehicle windshield] or a current valid VIR, or other form of proof authorized by the DPS or the DMV; and

(3) the vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance (I/M) requirements contained in this subchapter.

(b) All federal government agencies must require a motor vehicle operated by any federal government agency employee on any property or facility under the jurisdiction of the agency and located in an affected EAC county to comply with all vehicle emissions I/M requirements contained in the Austin Area Early Action Compact Ozone State Implementation Plan Revision. Commanding officers or directors of federal facilities shall certify annually to the executive director, or appointed designee, that all subject vehicles have been tested and are in compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act (42 United States Code, §§7401 et seq.). This requirement does not apply to

visiting agency, employee, or military personnel vehicles as long as such visits do not exceed 60 calendar days per year.

(c) A motorist in an affected EAC county who has received a notice from an emissions inspection station that there are unresolved recall items on the motor vehicle shall furnish proof of compliance with the recall notice prior to the next vehicle emissions inspection, such as a written statement from the dealership or leasing agency indicating that emissions repairs have been completed.

(d) A motorist whose vehicle has failed an emissions test may request a challenge retest through DPS. If the retest is conducted within 15 days of the initial inspection, the cost of the retest is free.

(e) A motorist whose vehicle has failed an emissions test and has not requested a challenge retest or has failed a challenge retest shall have emissions-related repairs performed and submit a properly completed vehicle repair form in order to receive a retest. In order to receive a waiver or time extension, the motorist shall submit a vehicle repair form or applicable documentation as considered necessary by the DPS.

(f) A motorist whose vehicle is registered in an affected EAC county, or in any county adjacent to an affected EAC county, and has failed an on-road test administered by the DPS shall:

(1) submit the vehicle for an out-of-cycle vehicle emissions inspection within 30 days of written notice by the DPS; and

(2) satisfy all inspection, extension, or waiver requirements of the vehicle emissions I/M program contained in the Austin Area Early Action Compact Ozone State Implementation Plan Revision.

(g) A vehicle registered in a county without an I/M program that meets the applicability criteria of §114.80(c) of this title (relating to Applicability), and the ownership of which has changed through a retail sale as defined by Texas Motor Vehicle Commission Code, Article 4413(36), §1.03 (moved to Texas Occupations Code, §2301.002, effective June 1, 2003), is not eligible for title receipt or registration in an affected EAC program county with an I/M program unless proof is presented that the vehicle has passed an approved vehicle emissions inspection within 90 days before the title transfer. The evidence of proof required may be in the form of the vehicle inspection report or another proof of the program compliance as authorized by the DPS. All 1996 and newer model year vehicles with less than 50,000 miles are exempt from the test-on-resale requirements of this subsection.

(h) State, governmental, and quasi-governmental agencies that fall outside the normal registration or inspection process must comply with all vehicle emissions I/M

requirements contained in the Austin Area Early Action Compact Ozone State  
Implementation Plan Revision for vehicles primarily operated in I/M program areas.