

Vehicle “Readiness” Fact Sheet

We were unable to test your 1996 or newer model year vehicle today because the vehicle’s computer diagnostic system or readiness monitors are not set.

What is “Readiness?”

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”. 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 one week under normal driving conditions including highway and city driving. The newer the vehicle the less time it should take.
- Check your vehicle’s owner’s manual, contact your local dealership or visit www.ohiocheck.org for information on drive cycles.

How can I check if my vehicle is “ready?”

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. Visit www.ohiocheck.org for detailed procedures from Ford/Lincoln/Mercury, Jeep/Chrysler/Dodge, and Honda/Acura owner’s manuals. Based on these owner’s manuals, to check for readiness, turn the ignition switch to the ON position, but do not crank or start the engine. The check engine light may light solidly then either turn off, remain illuminated or blink multiple times. If the check engine light blinks multiple times, the readiness codes are not likely set. If the light stays on or turns off, the readiness codes are likely set. Note that when the engine is started, the check engine light should turn off unless there are emissions control problems.

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

You can take the blue *Customer Notice* you received at the station, along with your title, to the BMV to apply for a temporary 30-day registration tag (cost \$18.50). 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 30-day 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 a repair extension. The extension would give you time for your readiness monitors to reset to “ready” while allowing you to legally drive the vehicle.

Please visit www.ohiocheck.org for additional information on vehicle readiness and On Board Diagnostics (OBD II).