

## **On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Readiness Monitor Motorist Assistance Center (MAC) Frequently Asked Questions**

After emissions repairs, your vehicle may need to automatically re-set its on-board computer by performing a series of system checks that need to be completed under actual driving conditions. Your vehicle cannot be given an on-board diagnostic (OBD) emissions test until it completes this process. About one week of combined city and highway driving is usually enough to allow the computer to record enough new data to be “ready” for an emissions test, although some vehicles may need more time.

If your vehicle has chronic or repeated problems with OBD readiness and receives multiple turn-away results, it may be automatically referred to a Motorist Assistance Center (MAC) and will need to be evaluated there before you can bring it back to an inspection station for a re-test. In the event of a referral, the Vehicle Inspection Report will provide instructions on how to schedule an appointment at a MAC.

### **What Is a Readiness Turn-away Result?**

Vehicles receive readiness turn-away results because the OBD readiness monitors have not met all of the following passing standards:

- 2000 and older model year vehicles are allowed no more than two unset monitors.
- 2001 and newer model year vehicles are allowed no more than one unset monitor.
- Any vehicle that fails the OBD test with a catalytic converter code must have the catalytic converter monitor reset to pass reinspection.

### **What Are OBD Readiness Monitors?**

OBD readiness monitors are manufacturer-programmed OBD computer self-check routines that observe the performance of specific vehicle emissions control systems. Once the OBD readiness monitors have completed their self-check tests, vehicles are able to be successfully reinspected.

### **Why Won't OBD Readiness Monitors Reset?**

After battery replacement and/or vehicle repair, vehicles need to be operated with specific conditions present in order to complete the manufacturer's pre-programmed OBD self-check routines. If these conditions aren't met, then the OBD readiness monitors can't complete their self-check tests, and vehicles can't pass reinspection.

### **What Will Happen When I Bring a Vehicle to a MAC?**

All of our Motorist Assistance Centers (MACs) are staffed with a National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-certified technician who is experienced with OBD readiness monitor diagnosis and resetting techniques. Our goal is to prevent additional turn-aways so that your vehicle may receive a valid windshield sticker.

Our MAC technicians will start by reviewing your vehicle's inspection and repair history and researching the readiness monitor resetting procedures. If necessary, they will speak with the repair technician you are working with to address the vehicle's turn-away results. With your permission, they will drive your vehicle on our vehicle treadmills and attempt to reset your vehicle's monitors. Note: This procedure may not be possible if the vehicle has full-time four-wheel or all-wheel drive, studded snow tires, or if the vehicle has other safety issues.

**What Information Will I Receive from the MAC Technician?**

Our MAC technicians will work with you and your vehicle repair technician to identify which readiness monitors are not resetting and what is the best way to approach the resetting of those monitors. If we are successful in identifying the reason your vehicle's readiness monitors were not resetting, and either our MAC technicians or your repair technician is able to reset the monitors, your vehicle will be able to return to an inspection station and obtain a windshield sticker.

If you have any concerns about our OBD readiness monitor MAC referral process, please contact the Motorist Hotline at 1-866-941-6277. For more information about the Massachusetts Vehicle Check program, please visit our Web site: [www.massvehiclecheck.state.ma.us](http://www.massvehiclecheck.state.ma.us).