

# REPAIRCARE

Maryland Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program  
Master Certified Emissions Technicians  
& Certified Emissions Repair Facilities

November 2005

## Recalls

Before you begin to diagnose and repair a vehicle that failed the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) inspection, check for Recalls and Technical Service Bulletins (TSBs.) Vehicle manufacturers are required to design and build their vehicles to meet emission standards for the useful life of the vehicle specified by law. Under Section 207 of the Clean Air Act, if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines that a substantial number of vehicles in a class or category do not meet emission standards in actual use even though they are properly maintained and used, EPA can require the manufacturer to recall and fix the affected vehicles.

EPA conducts emissions testing on randomly procured in-use vehicles at the National Vehicle and Fuels Emission Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The vehicles are screened for proper use and maintenance, and then tested for emissions compliance in the laboratory. If problems are found, discussions begin with the manufacturer on possible remedies, which may include a recall of the affected vehicles.

Manufacturers are required to report certain defects they find to EPA if they affect emission-related parts. Manufacturers are also required to report to EPA all emission-related voluntary recalls.

Recalls and other remedies like service campaigns are usually conducted voluntarily by the manufacturer. Some recalls result from discussions between EPA and manufacturers, prior to any enforcement action.

Recalls are reported by year on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/recall.htm>. TSBs are issued by vehicle manufacturers and can be found in resources like Mitchell and ALLDATA or on-line through the OEM websites. Checking for these documents before you begin to repair a vehicle can save you and your customers time and money.

