

# The Analyzer



THE WISCONSIN VEHICLE INSPECTION PROGRAM

WIVIP HELP LINE  
(866)623-8378

## Top Story

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### **Free troubleshooting seminar hosts twenty automotive technicians**

Participants gained useful strategies from ASE Master Tech



More than twenty people attended a free seminar presented by Justin Hutchins on Wednesday, December 1. About a dozen technicians attended in person and the rest joined the meeting online.

Hutchins is the owner of Sam's Auto Shop in Racine, one of the technical assistance centers (TACs) within the Wisconsin Vehicle Inspection Program. He is an ASE master technician with L1 (Advanced Engine Performance) certification.

During the seminar Hutchins shared a portion of his extensive background successfully diagnosing and repairing vehicles that either failed an emissions inspection or presented difficulties completing readiness monitors. Many examples were drawn from his TAC-level diagnostic assistance experience particularly related to vehicles presenting repeated emissions failures and rejects. Seminar topics included the differences and importance of open and closed loop operation, the role of fuel trim, and interrelationships with O<sub>2</sub> and converter monitors.

The examples that Hutchins discussed are common situations that can occur, while his explanations provided diagnostic and repair strategies that could save vehicle owners and technicians time and money. Opus looks forward to presenting more TAC seminars delivered by master technicians covering topics of particular interest to automotive technicians.

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**Do your customers need to renew?**

**Don't forget to ask emissions inspection and core business customers if they would like their registration renewed!**



## Inspection Tips

### **Maximizing inspection process speed and efficiency**

The amount of time it takes to conduct an emissions inspection is reliant on many factors. Opus team members have been studying the process and have identified a few tips that may help to either speed up the process or at least explain some of the delays that can occur:

#### **Efficiency and experience of the inspector**

- ◆ After the first 20-50 inspections a new inspector typically is up to speed and able to move through the process quicker.

#### **Inspection process**

- ◆ Documenting on a note pad the vehicle mileage, plate number, GVWR, results of the key on engine off, and key on engine running—when the vehicle is first pulled into the dedicated inspection location—speeds up the process. *See below for an example of a log sheet.*
- ◆ Plugging into the Data Link Connector (DLC) on the vehicle at the point the analyzer requests this to be done and doing so when the vehicle has been running for at least 30 seconds improves probability that communication with the vehicle is successful.
- ◆ Only unplug from the DLC when the analyzer requests this to be done, not before.
- ◆ Follow through on all menu items from the analyzer process. Example, leaving the analyzer on the menu that asks if a registration renewal is desired should not be done. Respond “No” if the motorist does not want to renew to ensure the analyzer completes and closes out the inspection process and is ready for the next.



#### **Condition of the vehicle under test**

- ◆ Some vehicles do have communication issues. Always follow the on-screen messages when this occurs to determine if there is a vehicle communication issue or if there is an issue with the analyzer hardware.
- ◆ Always verify that the DLC is fully and properly plugged in and both the yellow and green lights are illuminated.

#### **Speed of the internet connection**

- ◆ Each inspection is transmitted to the vehicle information database and to the State when completed. This process must fully complete for a vehicle registration to be authorized. If the internet connection is slow, due to either local or larger scale issues, the process can be delayed.
- ◆ The registration renewals not only rely on the test record being transmitted, a verification message is required. Again, the internet can be a factor.

#### **The analyzer**

- ◆ The analyzer can become slow; this can occur if the analyzer has been left waiting for a menu prompt and not returned to either the main menu of the inspection menu prompt.
- ◆ Each night (or at other times if required) the analyzer will receive a refresh and updates as required. For this to occur the analyzer must be left on the main menu or inspection menu prompt. The best practice is to perform a nightly shutdown function as you leave the shop.

Please contact Opus if you have any questions about these items or if you have other tips that can be shared. A log sheet example is provided below:

Make	Model	Odometer	Plate	KOEO	KOER	GVWR

## Station Spotlight



### **Kusch's Automotive**

126 N. 120th Street, Wauwatosa

"Reliable service you can trust," is a simple promise Kusch's Automotive has been delivering on since Mike and Kathy Kusch started the business more than 30 years ago. The Wauwatosa business has also been providing emissions testing services since the PIF network was started nearly a decade ago, completing more than 50 thousand inspections in that time.



Mike Kusch runs the service operations while wife and co-owner Kathy manages the office. Full-time certified emissions inspector Drew Lambrecht performs most of the inspections at Kusch's, logging more than four thousand since he started in May 2018.

WVIP emissions inspections allows the Kusch team to demonstrate their top-notch customer service. Kathy Kusch puts it plainly, "This has been the best form of advertising for us." Providing inspection services has even enabled the business to eliminate their advertising budget.

Recognizing that the automotive industry is constantly evolving, Mike dedicates resources to ensure everyone remains well-schooled on new developments and the shop is equipped with the latest tools and equipment. Along with that commitment, a relentless focus on customer satisfaction remains the primary driver for the Kusch team.



***"This has been the best form of advertising for us."***

**—Kathy Kusch,  
Kusch's  
Automotive**

#### Photos

- ◆ (Left) Mike and Kathy Kusch
- ◆ (Below) Emissions inspector Drew Lambrecht completes an inspection.

***The Wisconsin Vehicle Inspection Program is proud to announce the recent addition of the following PIFs to our network:***

- ◆ Valvoline Instant Oil Change (Grafton)
- ◆ Krueger's Auto Tech and Tire Center (Cedarburg)
- ◆ Auto Safety Center (West Bend)
- ◆ Reflections Detailing (Glendale)

## Program News

### **Vehicle inspection program has openings for new PIFs**

#### **Network members see increased customer traffic**

Opus is looking to add new locations to the Wisconsin emissions testing network with openings for new facilities across the inspection region (Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington or Sheboygan County). If you own or manage a repair facility or other business that could accommodate emissions testing and registration renewal services, we'd like to hear from you.

Joining the emissions testing network increases customer traffic to your facility and you get paid to do it! There is no outlay for the equipment or supplies other than the initial equipment deposit—and you get paid for each test or registration that you complete.

Contact Opus if you are interested in becoming a **Private Inspection Facility (PIF)**. Provide more services to your existing customers and attract potential customers to your shop. You will not have to send your customers to another shop.

Or, tell us if you are interested in registering with the program as a **Recognized Repair Facility (RRF) or Non-Recognized Repair Facility**. Registered repair facilities are listed on the program website, [wisconsinvip.org](http://wisconsinvip.org).

To learn more, call 1 (866) OBD-TEST or email [wisconsin@OpusInspection.com](mailto:wisconsin@OpusInspection.com)



## Did You Know...

### **What vehicles require testing in 2022?**

#### **Registration renewal testing requirement**

Every other year, 1996 and newer vehicles (newest three model years are exempt) must be inspected before their license plates can be renewed. Because this is a biennial test, the following model years will be tested to fulfill registration renewal testing requirements.

#### **Model years tested for registration renewals expiring in 2022**

1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019



1997 Chevy Lumina



2019 Toyota Tacoma

#### **Testing requirements for change of ownership**

Vehicles more than five model years old are subject to testing upon change of ownership. Motorists receive notice of the emissions-testing requirement after they have titled and registered the vehicle. Failure to complete the emissions requirement within the allotted 45-day time period will result in the suspension of the newly purchased vehicle's registration.

#### **Vehicles purchased in 2022 subject to testing**

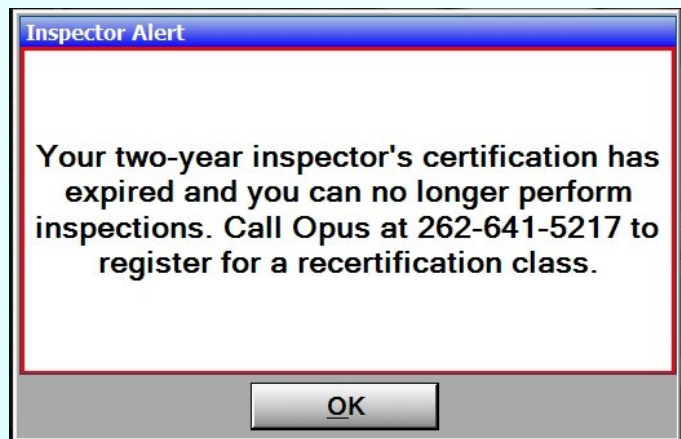
Model years 1996-2017

## The Inspection Bay

### **What to know about inspector license recertifications**

Inspector license certifications are good for two years. Your license has an expiration date; please be aware of this date and plan accordingly. You may renew your license up to six months prior to expiration. When you log in to the inspection analyzer, you will receive a notification when you are approaching your license expiration date (see examples below).

The process for recertification is outlined below along with the class schedule.



### **Recertification process**

For recertification training, candidates are required to register for one of the fourteen weekly classes and must bring a photo ID with full legal name and date of birth when they arrive. Opus instructors will provide self-study materials for recertification candidates to study on their own and will be available to answer questions. During the class meeting, candidate inspectors will perform an inspection as part of a practical exam.

#### **Class schedule:**

**Monday/Friday** 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.

**Tues/Wed/Thurs** 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.

Contact Tammy at [tammy.ross@opusinspection.com](mailto:tammy.ross@opusinspection.com) or Abraham at [abraham.calderon@opusinspection.com](mailto:abraham.calderon@opusinspection.com) to register for a class, or call (262) 641-5217.

### **Reminder: Verify license plates**

*If an incorrect license plate is entered the vehicle inspection report will not properly link to the customer's vehicle.*

*You will not be able to renew their license plate and they may end up getting another inspection.*

*This could negatively affect the experience the motorist has while at your shop.*

*We recommend that you carefully enter the license plate number and verify your input prior to moving to the next step.*