



INTERVENTION 4

Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance

SUMMARY

Full success of regulations on cleaner fuels and less polluting vehicles is dependant on compliance. It is normal for governments to have some mechanism to ensure that emissions controls devices and systems are operating correctly. These approaches normally include testing as a requirement for vehicle registration and sometimes allow for roadside inspection or testing.

Health benefits: Low. An effective inspection and maintenance system will help to maintain the emissions reductions achievable under fuel and vehicle technology. In particular, I&M tends to ensure that the oldest and most polluting vehicles are replaced early. The scale of these increases is very dependent on the local circumstance, but is likely to be modest.

Carbon benefits: Low. As with air quality, the inspection and maintenance program will have modest benefits in terms of carbon reductions.

Costs: Low. The costs of public vehicle testing stations (or the installation of equipment in private workshops) are relatively low and should be covered by testing and/or registration fees.

Political Feasibility: This option is normally not a political issue, except where it is seen as part of regulatory upgrading which may generate some opposition.

EXAMPLES

BANGKOK. Vehicle inspection and maintenance. To renew a vehicle's registration and tax identification, the vehicle must pass periodic inspections. The authorities have the power to stop any vehicle suspected of being non-compliant and administer a roadside pollution inspection.

HONG KONG. Controlling smoky vehicles. Smoky vehicles spotted by accredited spotters have to undergo a dynamometer smoke test. Failure to pass the test will result in the vehicle licence being cancelled. The

Police also carry out roadside smoke-testing operations using a portable meter. Fixed penalty tickets are issued to the owners of vehicles failing the smoke test.

MEXICO. Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program. The Program was introduced in 1990 and mandates a test every 6 months for all gasoline motor vehicles as one of the strategies to decrease emissions. In 2014, the six states of the greater Mexico City megalopolis agreed to harmonize all I&M programs. Fraud has been a persistent problem in Mexico as in I&M systems worldwide, and enforcement remains a challenge. However, a government review of the program concluded that, despite problems, it had contributed to significant reductions in emissions.