

## **Counterfeit Inspection Stickers – FAQ Sheet**

**How many vehicles are inspected annually in Williamson County?** In 2009 a total of 210,647 vehicles were inspected in Williamson County. Initial inspection failure rate for the 2009 calendar year was 8.8%, with 5.9% being emission test failure. This equates to 18,537 vehicles and 12,428 respectively. Of those initially failing, 1275 vehicles never retested. Additional vehicles in the county have never registered and never inspected.

**Why should Williamson County be concerned about counterfeit inspection certificates?** Counterfeit inspection certificates are an environmental and safety problem. Vehicles that are not properly inspected for safety could be at a higher risk for accidents due to tire condition, brake problems, steering/suspension issues, etc.

On road mobile sources (i.e. vehicles) are the largest contributing factor to locally generated ozone precursor compound levels in Central Texas. High ozone levels are negative indicators of ambient air quality measures and are imputed to impact public health. Noncompliance on EPA mandated ground level ozone can impact transportation and development projects in the area.

**What is NED?** North Central Texas Council of governments Emissions Database (NED). A database developed by NCTCOG in conjunction with the High Emitting Vehicle Program to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies. It is a password protected internet database, accessible 24 hours per day, except when temporarily unavailable for maintenance. Inspection records are updated on a weekly basis with data received from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

**Will this program cut into an Officer's time?** No. This program can be done during a normal traffic patrol or traffic stops. It takes less than 2 minutes to enter the license number in NED and receive results. No additional personnel are needed. To initiate the program Precinct 2 will be assigning overtime duties to two constables.

**What happens if a vehicle has a valid sticker but the inspection number for some reason was not recorded in NED?** If a query does not return a record result, the user is notified that no records were found. This does not always mean that the certificate is bad; it means only no record was found. DPS should be contacted via phone for verification, as there are a few legitimate reasons why an inspection record may not show up, but this is a very rare occurrence. The most common reason is that the stations analyzer did not transmit the record to the State for some reason. DPS will investigate these situations if reported to them. Should they impound a vehicle by mistake or remove a valid certificate by mistake the officer is responsible to correct the situation just as is the case for any other reason they are currently impounding vehicles.

**What is the authority for this program?** Texas Transportation Code §548.603(f) allows for a vehicle to be impounded if a fictitious or counterfeit motor vehicle inspection certificate is being displayed.