



Informational Packet





ECARS Frequently Asked Questions



ECARS is a database application that assists JB Anacostia-Bolling, and other installations in heavy air pollution zones, in meeting federal requirements to track vehicle emissions from Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs) **inside** their fence lines. This application is a sign-up style **annual** self-registration of your commuter status, that takes less than 15 min to complete.

What are the regulations that require my participation in JBAB's ECARS program?

- Congressional Requirement - 42 U.S. Code Section 7418(d)
- Federal Requirement - Clean Air Act Section 118(d)
- Air Force Requirement – AFMAN 32-7002, Env. Compliance and Pollution Prevention, Para 4.5.3, pg 46
- Note: Members are also required to comply with state emissions regulations that apply **outside** the fence line of JBAB. Examples regs include state regulations in MD, VA, DC district, or the state in which your POV is currently registered.

Which personnel on JBAB are required to use ECARS?

- All Military Members who commute onto JBAB 60 days or more a year
- All Federal Civil Service Employees who commute onto JBAB 60 days or more a year, including non-AF employees
- Contactors are generally not required to use ECARS, unless usage is stipulated in their company's contract with JBAB.



ECARS Frequently Asked Questions



How do I access ECARS to register my commuter status?

- Primary website link: <https://apims.af.mil/apims/ecars/>
- Alternate link: Go to AF Portal, Applications A to Z, Letter E, ECARS.
- Manual Workaround: If you are unable to access ECARS by one of the two methods above, a blank copy of AF Form 4434 can be obtained from your ECARS coordinator. Once completed and signed by you, return by email for a manual upload.

How can I get assistance with my ECARS registration?

Additional help can be obtained by contacting JBAB's ECARS coordinators at 11ces.ceie.ecars@us.af.mil

My vehicle passed its emissions inspection in Virginia/Maryland, will that cover the requirement?

Yes, ECARS will allow you to input a certification from other states IF it was completed in an "enhanced program class" county. If your vehicle passed its emissions inspection in a "basic" (non-enhanced) program class county, that is not enough to certify compliance in ECARS. In this case, you would need to have your vehicle tested in DC or an enhanced program class MD/VA county. ECARS will notify you via email if this is the case.

I'm a military member who registers my vehicle in my legal state of residence outside of DC/VA/MD that does not require "enhanced program class" emission testing. Do I still have to use ECARS?

Yes, ECARS will require you to input a certification from an "enhanced program class" county. If your vehicle is registered in a state that only requires a "basic" (non-enhanced) program class, that is not enough to certify compliance in ECARS. If your vehicle is registered in a state that does not require emission inspection, that is not enough to certify compliance in ECARS. In either case, you will need to have your vehicle tested in DC or an enhanced program class county.



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My unit is tenant on JBAB. Do I still have to use ECARS?

Yes, if your unit is a Federal Agency.

I am a reservist assigned to JBAB. Do I still have to use ECARS?

Yes. However, an exemption may be applicable to you if you drive a POV on base less than 60 days a year.

I am an Air/Army Guard Member assigned to JBAB. Do I still have to use ECARS?

Yes. However, an exemption may be applicable to you if you drive a POV on base less than 60 days a year.

What if I am deployed or on a long term TDY?

Your ECARS coordinator can temporarily archive your account until you return.

How do I know if my county is an “enhanced” or “basic” program class?

ECARS will notify you via email if your county’s testing requirements are not “enhanced” (meaning they do not satisfy ECARS requirements).



ECARS Frequently Asked Questions



I carpool onto JBAB. Do I still have to use ECARS?

Yes. Members are still required to register their commuter status annually. However, an exemption may be applicable to you if you drive a POV on base less than 60 days a year.

I take public transportation or carpool onto JBAB. Do I still have to use ECARS?

Yes. Members are still required to register their commuter status annually.

I take Uber/Lyft onto JBAB. Do I still have to use ECARS?

Yes. Members are still required to register their commuter status annually.

I ride a bicycle onto JBAB. Do I still have to use ECARS?

Yes. Members are still required to register their commuter status annually.

What if my car is experiencing maintenance issues and won't pass an emissions test?

A short-term maintenance waiver is available through your ECARS coordinator.



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ECARS Frequently Asked Questions



Are there any ECARS emissions testing exemptions that may be applicable to my vehicle/commuter status?

Yes. A list of exemptions are available on slide #7. Exemptions are obtained using the drop-down tabs inside of your ECARS registry profile.

Where can I find the date of my last emissions inspection?

DC provides a window sticker.

Virginia - <https://www.virginiavip.org/PublicSite/Pages/VehicleLookup.aspx>

Maryland - [Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program \(VEIP\) - Pages \(maryland.gov\)](#)



ECARS Vehicle Exemptions



Private vehicle exemptions available to JBAB customer include:

- New vehicles that have a manufacturers Certificate of Origin
- Zero emission vehicles i.e. diesel or electric vehicles
- Older vehicles manufactured before 1968
- Motorcycles and motorized bicycles
- Note: Hybrid vehicles are not exempt
- Note: A repair waiver can be obtained for vehicles that fail the emissions test, undergo repairs, and fail again. Minimum repair cost must be at least \$972 in order to qualify for a waiver. Waiver is good for two years.



Procedures

Once ECARS is notified that a new JBAB member has on-boarded and is required to participate in ECARS, a system generated email will be sent to the participant instructing them to self-register their commuter status.

Participants will then have 30 days to comply, after which they will start receiving past-due notices (emails) and appear on installation wide delinquency reports.

Military members and Federal civilians who do not receive an initial notification email should send an email to 11ces.ceie.ecars@us.af.mil in order to be entered into the ECARS system.

Members will need to annually update the database and periodically as their commuter status changes, exemptions expire, when new vehicles are acquired, and when previously registered vehicles are sold/removed from service.



DC Inspection Station



Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, Thur through Sat: 0700-1500

Wed: 0800-1500

Sun & Mon: Closed

Cost: \$10-35 (out of pocket)

Payment: Money order, Check, Debit Cards, VISA / Mastercard, American Express, Discover.
Cash is not accepted.

Address:

1001 Half Street, SW

Washington, DC 20024

Link: <https://dmv.dc.gov/page/inspection-station>



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Self-Service Vehicle Emissions Inspection Kiosk



- District residents can perform their own vehicle emissions test 24/7
- Only available for (1) private/pleasure class vehicles model years 2005 or newer, and (2) vehicles previously inspected by DC DMV.
- For vehicles that pass or fail the self-inspection, the kiosk will print a Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) and a temporary paper inspection certificate to be displayed on the vehicles' dashboard. Any vehicle displaying a valid temporary certificate issued by DC DMV will not be ticketed for vehicle inspection violations. DC DMV will mail a two-year or fail inspection sticker to the vehicle owners' address of record.
- The kiosk is located at the Takoma Recreation Center on 300 Van Buren Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012 (Entrance is on 3rd Street, NW).

