



OPUS INSPECTION

The Opus Inspection Emissions Industry Newsletter

May 2016

Dear Opus Inspection Customers:

Welcome to the May 2016 edition of our quarterly newsletter. We've combed a number of publications, blogs, and websites in search of articles that you will find both interesting and informative. I hope you enjoy it. This is your resource, so please feel free to share your comments and suggestions for improvement.

And, of course, thank you for choosing Opus Inspection!

Sincerely,

Chris Smith
VP Operations
Opus Inspection, Inc.

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*In our **Feature Story** below, the WHO releases a database showing where and how outdoor air pollution has increased over the past five years. And, in **The Latest From Opus Inspection**, California shops are encouraged to upgrade to the latest **System1 Gen3** analyzers.*

Also:

- **Automakers sweat increased scrutiny in wake of VW scandal**
- **Team of German researchers test exhaust plumes; find high emitters**
- **Seventeen hydrogen fuel cell cars slated to hit the market by 2027**
- **Maryland launches commercial vehicle safety enforcement initiative**
- **New York AG says Operation Ridin' Dirty nabbed 8 crooked inspectors**
- **Roadside commercial vehicle safety enforcement prevents wrecks and saves lives**
- **A bill to end safety inspections fails in Utah**
- **Maryland expands convenient self-service kiosks**
- **Louisiana motorists can get their faulty sticker replaced for free**

- ***Budget impasse notwithstanding, Illinois resumes sending out emission test reminders***
- ***Buffalo man realizes "homemade" doesn't apply to inspection stickers***

Feature Story

Bad time to breathe in the developing world, but even the US sees elevated pollution

According to the recently released database by the World Health Organization (WHO) outdoor air pollution has risen at an alarming 8% in the past five years. Levels of ultra-fine particles of 2.5 microns (PM2.5s) are the highest in India, which has 16 of the world's 30 most polluted cities. This aligns with data that shows that fast-growing cities in the developing world are the most affected. The data for the slightly less hazardous PM10 particles show a similar pattern. Experts say true air pollution figures could be much worse as only a handful of African cities monitor their pollution figures. The most polluted city in the world according to the WHO? That would be the port city of Onitsha in Nigeria. Visalia-Porterville in Central California owns the title as the most polluted city in the US. An estimated 7 million people die of air pollution-related causes every year worldwide. *The Guardian*



Onitsha, Nigeria: Identified by WHO as most polluted city in the world. Photo: Alamy.

[Link to article](#)

Testing & Regulations

World automakers feel the heat of closer scrutiny following WV scandal

Fallout from the Volkswagen diesel-emission cheating scandal has put other manufacturers on the defensive as regulators around the world ramp up their scrutiny on the industry. Mitsubishi admits to overstating fuel economy on 620,000 of their models sold in Japan, admitting that they manipulated test procedures in the process. Acting on a request by the US Justice Department, Daimler launches an internal investigation into their emissions reporting practices. And French authorities raid the offices of PSA Peugeot Citroën as part of an emissions probe. The long-term result of increased regulatory attention is unclear, but it is certain that governments have little tolerance for automakers who game the system in the lab, while emitting higher levels of pollutants than they actually claim. *Green Car Reports*

[Link to article](#)

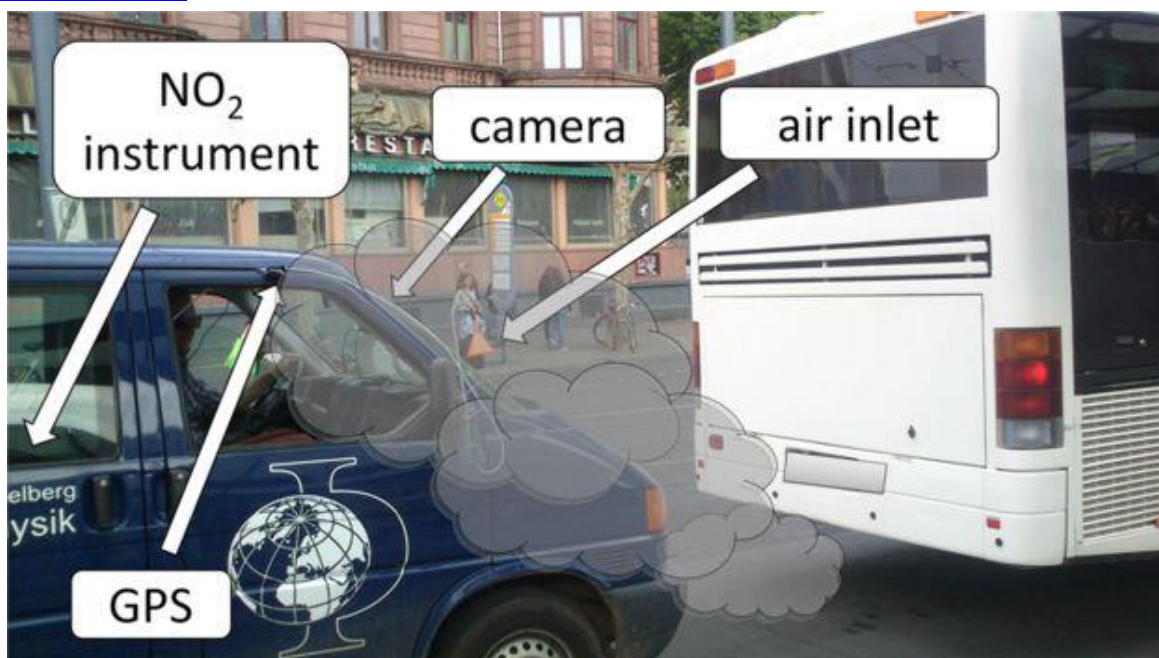
Europe

German researchers follow vehicles, sniff out high emitters

A team of German scientists from the University of Heidelberg have sallied forth to sample on-road vehicle emissions throughout Germany, using a car equipped with exhaust plume sensing equipment. The researchers are particularly interested in measuring NO₂ emissions from vehicles of all types, configurations, and model years. Results have found that a small percentage of vehicles emit the highest level of pollutants, and common culprits often turn out to be older busses.

Researchers noted that removing such high-emitters from the vehicle fleet would go a long way to ensuring cleaner skies. *BBC.com*

[Link to article](#)



German sniffer car seeks out high emitters. Photo: Institute of Environmental Physics, Heidelberg

Equipment, Tools & Gear

Toyota and Hyundai will soon have company in the hydrogen car marketplace

According to industry analyst IHS Automotive, 17 hydrogen fuel cell vehicles will reach the world market by 2027. Leading the push will be the European Union, where nations like Germany have committed to building the needed fueling infrastructure, and Japan, where hydrogen fueled vehicles will be showcased during the 2020 Olympics. These plans aside, hydrogen fueled vehicles face a number of challenges, including how to generate fuel supplies in a sustainable way, and developing the necessary fueling infrastructure so owners can find stations to fill their tanks. But the technology does offer advantages, and experts feel that the next 25 to 30 years will reveal whether hydrogen cell vehicles eventually gain wide public acceptance, or evaporate from the marketplace. *The Detroit Bureau*



*Fuel cell stack for the Hyundai Tucson
Photo: The Detroit Bureau*

[Link to article](#)

Enforcement

Maryland: Major enforcement sweep in Prince Georges County nets huge haul of violators

Troopers, truck inspectors, and cadets from the Maryland State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division were assisted by officers from seven different police agencies in a huge enforcement initiative. Commercial vehicles travelling on I-495/I-95 were directed into the FedEx Field parking lot where county and state inspectors stood by to perform safety and equipment inspections. Out of 438 commercial vehicles inspected, 115 received citations, and 251 warnings were issued. One truck was found to be 12 tons overweight, and 27 vehicles were taken out of service due to tire violations alone. In total, about 25 percent of the vehicles inspected were pulled out of service due to a variety of failures. *Southern Maryland News Net (smnewsnet.com)*

[Link to article](#)

New York: Operation "Ridin' Dirtier" nabs 8 inspectors

Eight New York City motor vehicle inspectors and two corporations were charged with violations of New York State Penal Law, Environmental Law, and Vehicle and Traffic Law. According to the announcement by Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, all pleaded guilty to felony charges. The convictions came about through Operation "Ridin' Dirtier," an undercover investigation conducted by the combined efforts of the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Motor

Vehicles, and Department of Environmental Conservation. The operation uncovered more than 13,000 fraudulent inspection certificates, most as a result of "clean scanning," but some vehicles weren't even clean scanned, just given illegal stickers. The going rate for a fake inspection ranged as high as \$150. Among other penalties, and a conviction on their record, the inspectors must cough up a \$5,000 fine. *Office of the New York Attorney General*

[Link to press release](#)

Focus on Safety

Thousands of lives saved through roadside commercial vehicle safety inspections, says federal agency

In March the US Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) released data and projections that indicate commercial vehicle roadside safety inspection and traffic enforcement programs have saved 7,000 lives since 2001. The FMCSA's roadside analysis data shows that nearly 500 lives were saved in 2012 alone, along with the prevention of 9,000 injuries from more than 14,000 crashes involving large commercial trucks and buses. The projections, obtained via the Roadside Intervention Effectiveness Model (RIEM), associates violations with specific crash probabilities, enabling the agency to estimate the number of crashes avoided as a result of violation-related corrections. The numbers may seem small when compared with the number of vehicles inspected annually--3.5 million--but the data demonstrates that in terms of the number of crashes avoided and lives saved, commercial vehicle safety inspections serve a critical need. *Today's Trucking*

[Link to article](#)



Trailer wheel receives roadside inspection. Photo: Today's Trucking

Arizona: State enforcement focuses on reducing commercial vehicle crashes

Operation "Southern Shield" took place in March on the two interstates in southern Arizona. The enforcement effort, conducted by commercial vehicle inspectors in roving patrols, and at a rest stop on I-19 between Tucson and the Mexican border, is in response to an uptick in commercial vehicle crashes that topped 2,500 in 2015, or at a rate of about 6 per day. Inspectors not only focus on unsafe vehicles and equipment, but also on drivers who may be impaired, in violation of federal hours of service laws, or who fail to wear safety restraints.

TucsonNewsNow.com

[Link to article](#)

Utah: Bill that would end safety inspections fails in committee

A bill proposed by Rep. Norm Thurston, R-Provo, that would do away with the state's vehicle safety program was put off for further study by the House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee. Thurston's assertion was that there was no evidence that the safety program worked and that the funds should be redirected. The bill met heavy opposition from auto shop owners who argued that they often find vehicles with brake or tire problems. Utah requires safety inspections from vehicles 4, 8, and 10 years old, with vehicles 10 years or older required to have a safety inspection yearly. *Deseret News*

[Link to article](#)

State News

Maryland: MVA adds seven more self-service kiosks to state program

The state's Motor Vehicle Administration has announced the expansion of their self-service kiosk program, which has been in operation for ten months. The original two kiosks (which tests vehicles via plug-in OBD connector performed by the motorist according to instructions on the screen) have been joined by seven more, with four located at MVA branch offices and three at Vehicle Emission Inspection Program (VEIP) stations. According to MVA, the original two kiosks have logged more than 2,300 tests and enjoy a 85 to 90 percent customer satisfaction rating. The state has also dropped the kiosk fee down to \$10, while full service inspections remain at \$14. *Washington Post* **[Note: The Maryland VEIP's Self-Service Kiosks are provided and supported by Opus Inspection.--Ed.]**

[Link to article](#)

Louisiana: Bad batch of stickers prompt state to offer free replacements

State troopers, seeing a rash of peeling stickers as a result of a bad supply received from a vendor, are directing motorists to Motor Vehicle Inspection (MVI) stations to obtain a free replacement. While even peeling stickers are still valid, and

replacement is optional as long as the sticker remains visible, motorists should still avoid trying to repair their stickers with glue or tape. *WBRZ.com (Baton Rouge, LA)*
[Link to article](#)

Illinois: State EPA resumes sending out vehicle emission test reminders

Vehicle emission test reminders, which had been halted back in December due to the state budget stalemate, are being issued again by Illinois EPA after the inspection contractor agreed to eat the cost of the reminders. The decision affects nearly half a million vehicles, but drivers are cautioned: the Secretary of State still lacks the funds to issue license plate renewal notices, and motorists who are late renewing their registration may face a \$20 late fee. *Chicago Sun-Times*
[Link to article](#)

The Latest From Opus Inspection

California shops encouraged to upgrade to Gen3 Analyzers

Opus Inspection has recently announced that **ESP brand Gen1** and **Gen2** analyzers are approaching the end of their service life. As component parts are becoming increasingly difficult to source, obsolescence is right around the corner. For that reason, Opus Inspection is urging California customers to consider upgrading to the company's new **System1® Gen3** analyzer. Customers will be glad to know that Opus Inspection can easily interface the **Gen3** with any shop's existing dynamometer (assuming it is in good working order), preserving the capability of performing smog check services on vehicles 1999 and older.



Gen1 (All Model Numbers)

We understand our customers' revenue is tied to the reliability of the analyzer. Our **System1® Gen3**, featuring the latest technology, is **the first new BAR certified**. The **Gen3's** enhanced reliability Inspection's matchless service means that upgrades will be seamless and

Gen1 analyzers will become **2017**, and **Gen2** analyzers will **July 1, 2017**. For more



Gen2 (All Model Numbers)

analyzer in 10 years. teamed with Opus and installation support, hassle-free.

obsolete on **January 1**, become obsolete on information, customers

can call **(866) 623-8378**, or email CASales@opusinspection.com.
[Link to more information about the Gen 3 analyzer](#)

[Click here for full stories and more Opus Inspection News](#)



Off The Beaten Track

Hand-made inspection sticker fails to impress police officer

A police officer, after pulling over a Buffalo man for loud exhaust, discovered something odd about the vehicle's inspection sticker. The sticker allegedly appeared to be "a piece of an envelope colored red and written on in black ink to resemble a New York State inspection sticker." The driver allegedly told the officer that his fiancé had a friend inspect the vehicle and was unaware that the sticker was fraudulent. The driver was arrested and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation, fraudulent inspection and failure to surrender suspended license.

West Seneca Bee

[Link to article](#)

Opus Inspection, Inc., established in 1999, is part of the Opus Group and provides turnkey vehicle inspection program management services, including vehicle information databases, and advanced emission and safety test systems to various levels of government agencies (federal, state and regional) and to individual inspection stations. The Opus Group is in the business of developing, producing and selling products and services within Automotive Test Equipment, Vehicle Inspection Systems and Fleet Management for the global market. The products include emission analyzers, diagnostic equipment, and automatic test lines. Services include management of mandatory vehicle inspection programs. The Group sells its products and services in more than 50 countries all over the world and currently employs around 900 persons. Opus' shares are listed on NASDAQ OMX Stockholm under the ticker OPUS.