

INSPECTION REPORT

Attached please find the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) inspection report of your inspected facility and/or any vehicles/engines identified therein. EPA is providing this report as a matter of agency policy and will contact you again only if needed.

Without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business, EPA is also providing you with a link to this Small Business Resources Information Sheet (<https://www.epa.gov/compliance/small-business-resources-information-sheet>) which provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws.

Inspection Information	
Inspection Number:	R8_CAA_20240730_LECORTZ_01_AUTONATION
Inspection Date(s):	July 30, 2024
Regulatory Program(s):	40 C.F.R. Parts 85, 86, and 1068
EPA Region/Program Conducting Inspection:	EPA Region 8, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, Air and Toxics Enforcement Branch
Company Name:	AutoNation USA Denver 104
Facility Name:	AutoNation USA Denver 104
Facility Physical Location: (street address, building/unit #)	759 W 104th Ave
(city, state, zip code)	Northglenn, CO 80234

Inspection Report Revision History		
Revision #	Revision Date	Reason for Revision

Inspector and Approval

Colin LeCortz
Field Inspector Name

Signature

7/31/2024
Date

Scott Patefield
Name of Approving Official

Branch Manager
Title

SCOTT PATEFIELD
Digitally signed by SCOTT PATEFIELD
Date: 2024.08.01 14:58:15 -06'00'

Signature

Date

FACILITY INSPECTION WORKSHEET

(Supplemental notes or narrative format may be used as preferred).

General Inspection Information				
Facility Name:	AutoNation USA Denver 104	Inspection Date	7/30/2024	
Facility Address:	759 W 104th Ave, Northglenn, CO 80234	Arrival/Departure Time	9:00 AM	10:05 AM
		Inspection Number/ID:	R8_CAA_20240730_LECORTZ_01_AUTONATION	
Primary Facility Representative & Title:	Ian Merten, General Manager	Inspector(s):	Colin LeCortz (EPA) Paul Darrah (CDPHE) Raymond Elick (CDPHE) Brad Shakeshaft (CDPHE)	
Facility Contact Phone/Email:	Ian Merten MERTENI@autonation.com 720-923-1120			
Time Inspector Presented Credentials:	9:10 AM	Compliance Assistance Reference Materials Provided to Facility	☐ SBREFA Form ☐ Exhaust Repair Guidelines ☐ Memo 1A ☒ Tampering Brochure ☐ Engine Switch Fact Sheet ☒ Other: Anti-Tampering Fact Sheet & Regulation	
Permission to Enter Facility Granted? If Yes, by whom? If No, explain.	☒ Yes ☐ No Yes, Ian			
Photographer Name:	Colin LeCortz	Photograph Range:	IMG_1155-IMG_1158	
Notes (e.g. compliance actions taken by facility, purchased samples, other relevant background, etc.):	On July 30, 2024, inspectors from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA) and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) conducted a Clean Air Act Title II Motor Vehicle Emissions inspection at AutoNation USA Denver 104 (AutoNation). AutoNation is a dealership that buys and sells new and used cars. AutoNation's general manager provided information to the inspectors about the operation of purchasing vehicles that may have emission controls removed. AutoNation conducts a 125-point mechanical inspection on incoming vehicles to be sold and confirmed verbally that no vehicles are sold in Colorado if the vehicle comes in as a trade-in with tampered emissions components. Depending on the initial review of a vehicle AutoNation may not conduct a 125-point mechanical inspection if obvious defects are visible (See Compliance Assistance below). The inspectors received the 125-point inspection check sheet and confirmed that exhaust system and muffler(s), catalytic converter, and emission equipment operation and vacuum hoses were present on the sheets to be reviewed by technicians per vehicle. On a case-by-case basis a vehicle will either be repaired to original equipment manufacturer (OEM) factory controls or will be sent to AutoNation Auto Auction located in Houston, Texas (Auto Auction). AutoNation sells approximately 100 vehicles per month, with about 5 being diesel. AutoNation has approximately 4 technicians and 11 salespersons. A facility walkthrough occurred at 9:22 am. Inspectors reviewed the inventory and			

	selected 4 vehicles to inspect, discussed further below under Vehicles Inspected/Observed. One 2009 Ford F-250 (see photo log IMG_1155-IMG_1158) had emission components removed and was configured with a straight pipe, EGR block-off plate, and did not have a code for check engine light according to inspection records provided by AutoNation, therefore additionally the computer can be presumed to be re-coded to operate the vehicle without emission controls. AutoNation provided records for the 2009 Ford F-250 documenting that the emission control equipment was missing or tampered. AutoNation planned to send this vehicle to Auto Auction without re-installing OEM factory emission controls. The EPA Inspector called AutoNation later in the day, at 2:30 PM on July 30, 2024, to further discuss the transfer of vehicles to AutoNation Auto Auction in Houston, Texas. The AutoNation general manager described the process as trailering the vehicles to Auto Auction that are not sold at AutoNation. The vehicle is then sold at auction, where AutoNation receives funds from the sale (see Areas of Concern below). Compliance Assistance: EPA would advise all incoming vehicles to have documented deficiencies listed instead of subjectively conducting pre-owned inspections. Areas of Concern: EPA has concerns that AutoNation is selling or offering to sell parts or components intended for use with a motor vehicle where a principal effect of the part or component is to bypass, defeat, or render inoperative any device or element of design installed on or in a motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine in compliance with regulations under Title II of the Clean Air Act, and where the person knows or should know that such part or component is being offered for sale or installed for such use or put to such use (See Clean Air Act Section 203(a)(3)(B). For example, AutoNation described that the 2009 Ford F-250 described above will be sent, as-is, to Auto Auction without the reinstallation of OEM emission controls. The Auction House is providing funds to AutoNation based on the sale of a vehicle brought by AutoNation. Inspector LeCortz initially did not discuss this topic during the onsite inspection however after further conversations with AutoNation via phone EPA is citing this as an Area of Concern.
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Facility Business Activities		
Types of Services (check all that apply)	Description/Observations (types and brands of parts that are manufactured or sold, types of shop services provided, etc.)	Estimated Throughput (e.g., sales per month, installs per week)
☐ Manufactures aftermarket parts (hardware or software)		

☐	Sells aftermarket part sales (including drop shipments)		
☐	Service shop		
☐	Fleet		
☒	Other: Dealership	AutoNation sells new and used vehicles, primarily passenger vehicles (sedan, SUV, truck).	100 vehicles per month (approximately 5 diesels sold per month)

Personnel Interviewed			
Name	Title/Position	Contact Info. (e.g., email, phone number)	Interviewed by (Last name of Inspector)
Ian Merten	General Manager	720-923-1120	LeCortz

Documents Requested		
Document(s)	Status	Notes/Comments
125-Point Inspection Check Sheet, 2009 Ford F-250 Intake Form.	☒ Document(s) Provided ☐ Will Provide After Inspection	Documents provided upon request.
	☐ Document(s) Provided ☐ Will Provide After Inspection	

Vehicles Inspected/Observed				
VIN (last 4 digits) or Vehicle Make and Model, License Plate (Last 3 digits)	EPA Engine Family	Appearance of Tampering (Yes/No/TBD)	OBD Data Obtained? (Yes/No)	Observations (e.g., Who Performed Apparent Tampering?)
2016 Ram 2500	-	No	No	
2012 Ram 2500	-	No	No	
2010 Ford F-350	-	No	No	
2009 Ford F-250		Yes	No	Straight pipes and disconnected sensors, EGR block off plate, no CEL

APPENDIX A: Photo Log

File Name (jpg)	Description	Photographer
IMG_1155	Ford F-250 Post Combustion Emissions Deleted 	LeCortz
IMG_1156	Ford F-250 side profile 	LeCortz
IMG_1157	EGR block off plate	LeCortz

		
IMG_1158	Disconnected exhaust wiring 	LeCortz