

**19A NCAC 03D .0541 EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROLS**

(a) An exhaust emission shall not be approved if the vehicle is a 1968-year model or newer and any of the visible emission control devices placed thereon by the manufacturer are missing, disconnected, made inoperative, or as set forth in G.S. 20-128(d) have been altered without approval of the Department of Environmental Quality.

(b) If the unleaded gas restrictor on a vehicle manufactured after model year 1967 has been altered or removed a new or reconditioned catalytic converter and unleaded gas restrictor must be replaced before the vehicle shall pass inspection.

(c) An exhaust system shall not be approved if:

- (1) the vehicle has no muffler or other exhaust system of the type installed at the time of manufacture or does not operate as designed by the vehicle manufacturer;
- (2) the muffler, exhaust, or tail pipes have leaking joints;
- (3) the exhaust or tail pipes have holes, leaking seams, or leaking patches on muffler;
- (4) the tail pipe end is pinched;
- (5) the exhaust system is equipped with muffler cut-out or muffler by-pass; or
- (6) any part of the system passes through the passenger compartment.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 20-2; 20-39; 20-128; 20-183.3(a)(9);  
Eff. October 1, 1994;  
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2021.*