

# insider info.

## **OBD Check During State I/M Programs**

Both the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have issued regulations requiring manufacturers of passenger cars, light-duty trucks and medium-duty vehicles to install an enhanced on-board diagnostic (OBD) system for emission control systems on 1994 and later model year vehicles, with exemption provisions. 1995 model year Subaru vehicles equipped with a 2.2 liter engine and all 1996 and later model year Subaru vehicles are equipped with this type of OBD system. The U.S. EPA published regulations requiring state I/M programs to perform OBD testing on all 1996 and newer model year vehicles beginning January 1, 1998.

1996 model year Subaru vehicles may experience a "Not Ready" condition during the readiness code check of the OBD test, because the 1996 model readiness code is reset at each engine key-off or engine stall event. This condition may result in 1996 Subaru vehicles being rejected by state I/M facility inspectors. On the approved 1996 Subaru OBD system, when the system detects a malfunction, it stores the identified diagnostic trouble code(s) and illuminates the malfunction indicator light (MIL), regardless of the readiness code status. Any malfunction can be confirmed by the existence of a trouble code and MIL illumination. Even if the readiness code is observed as a "Not Ready" condition, these vehicles will meet the I/M emissions standard.