

Get SMS alert for pollution certificate

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NEW DELHI: If your vehicle is due for a pollution check and you haven't got the pollution under control certificate (PUC) yet, expect to get an SMS reminder from the transport department soon.

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Delhi government's transport department has started sending out SMS alert to vehicle owners, reminding them of the date on which their vehicle is due for a pollution check. "We started collecting mobile numbers of vehicle owners at PUC centres about three and a half months ago and

have recently started sending SMS alerts. We have already sent alerts to about 1.5 lakh vehicle owners," said a transport department official.

The SMSes being sent by the department not only reminds vehicle owners about the exact date when their vehicles are due for a pollution check, but also warns them to do so immediately to avoid a challan (fine). According to department officials, there are plans to send challans of Rs 1,000 to the home of those who don't get their vehicles checked for pollution on time.

Officials said that the number of vehicles getting PUC certificates is much less than the number of vehicles registered in the city.

"We also found out that the phone numbers we had when the vehicles were registered were fake and didn't exist. That is why we started the exercise of recording phone numbers of those coming for pollution checks at PUC centres," said another official.

The department has the phone details of about two lakh vehicle owners at present, while the total number of registered vehicles in the city is more than one crore. Officials said that creating an exhaustive database of numbers of all vehicle owners would take time as these are only being noted when the vehicles come to PUC centres for a pollution check or for fitness test at vehicle testing centres.

It is mandatory for every vehicle owner to carry a valid PUC certificate and maintain his/her vehicles to comply with the prescribed emission norms. There are 1,004 pollution checking centres in Delhi.