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We study the weight- $W^{1,p}$  estimates of weak solutions to the equation

$$\operatorname{div}[\mathcal{A}(x)\nabla u] = \operatorname{div}[\mathbf{F}] \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

where  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is an open bounded domain,  $\mathbf{F} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a given vector field, and the coefficient matrix  $\mathcal{A}$  satisfies the degenerate elliptic condition

$$\Lambda\mu(x)|\xi|^2 \leq \langle \mathcal{A}(x)\xi, \xi \rangle \leq \Lambda^{-1}\mu(x)|\xi|^2, \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with  $\Lambda > 0$ , and the weight  $\mu$  to be in some Muckenhoupt class. (Received September 20, 2016)