Air Resources Board

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DATE: August 2, 2016 Mail-Out #ECARS 16-06

TO: All Manufacturers of California New Aftermarket Catalytic Converters
All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA EVALUATION PROCEDURES FOR NEW AFTERMARKET CATALYTIC CONVERTERS TO INCLUDE LEV III TEST PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) adopted the "California Evaluation Procedures for New Aftermarket Catalytic Converters" (procedures) on October 25, 2007, to update the testing requirements and improve emissions from in-use vehicles equipped with aftermarket catalytic converters. The procedures included the following major improvements: 1) increased durability from 25,000 miles to 50,000 miles; 2) required demonstration of compatibility with vehicle on-board diagnostic (OBD) systems; 3) extended defect warranty from 25,000 miles to 5 years or 50,000 miles; 4) established quality control checks; and 5) required quality control and warranty reporting. The adopted regulations link compliance for aftermarket catalytic converters to California's stringent emission standards. At that time LEV I and LEV II standards were the most stringent emission standards.

California's LEV III regulations were not in development, and consequently the procedures do not include references to the LEV III standards. Evaluation of aftermarket catalytic converters in LEV III vehicles cannot be performed. Changes to several sections in the procedures are proposed to incorporate LEV III standards and test procedures to allow manufacturers to develop aftermarket catalytic converters to be evaluated by ARB staff for anti-tampering exemption, sale, and installation on LEV III vehicles. No changes are proposed to the emission testing requirements, including converter aging, emission performance criteria, and OBD compatibility tests. ARB staff has scheduled a webinar workshop to discuss these proposed amendments.

The webinar workshop will be held at the following date and time:

Date: Wednesday, August 24, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Pacific Time)

Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5395341316830737922

Webinar ID: 108-713-091

The workshop is intended to be a webinar only meeting. The meeting is not set up to accommodate in person participation by members of the public. If you cannot participate through the webinar or you prefer to schedule a separate meeting to discuss the staff's proposal, please contact Mr. Richard Carranza at richard.carranza@arb.ca.gov.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Background: Several sections in the procedures reference the California Code of Regulations (CCR) to incorporate emission standards and test procedures. For example, the test procedures used to determine emissions from LEV I and LEV II vehicles are incorporated by reference in section (e)(4)(C)(1) of the procedures. Changes are needed to incorporate the standards and test procedures for LEV III vehicles. Erroneous CCR references will also be corrected.

Sections Affected:

1. Section (c) – Definitions
2. Section (e)(4)(A)(2) – Allowable Maintenance
3. Section (e)(4)(A)(3) – Baseline Emission Testing
4. Section (e)(4)(C)(1) – Emissions Performance Measurement and Evaluation

Proposed Amendments: The proposed additions are indicated by underlined text and the proposed deletions are indicated by ~~strikeout~~.

1. Section (c) Definitions

"Full useful life" refers to the FTP emission test standard applicable ~~between~~ to the point that the vehicle ~~has passed its interim useful life and the point that it~~ reaches the end of its full useful life as defined in the certification requirements and test procedures incorporated by reference in title 13, CCR sections 1961(d) and 1961.2(d).

"Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) I standard" refers to the LEV vehicle category exhaust emission standards defined in title 13, CCR sections 1956.8(g), 1960.1(g)(1), and 1960.1(h)~~(1)~~(2).

2. Section (e)(4)(A)(2) Allowable Maintenance

Second sentence: Allowable scheduled maintenance shall be conducted according to the maintenance allowed in ARB's certification procedures for new vehicles referenced in title 13, CCR sections 1961(d) and 1961.2(d) and applicable to the test vehicle.

3. Section (e)(4)(A)(3) Baseline Emission Testing

Table 1. Emissions and Maintenance Criteria

Test Vehicle odometer mileage	Baseline Emissions	Allowable Maintenance
Less than 50,000 miles	Must comply with interim useful life certification standards, if applicable	Only scheduled maintenance allowed.
Over 50,000 but less than full useful life miles	Must comply with full useful life certification standards	Only scheduled maintenance allowed.
Over full useful life miles	Must comply with full useful life certification standards	Scheduled maintenance and any reconditioning or repairs needed to return the vehicle to OEM specifications.

4. Section (e)(4)(C)(1) Emissions Performance Measurement and Evaluation

1. Two consecutive FTP emission tests shall be performed in accordance with the applicable test procedures (i.e., the procedures applicable to the model year and classification of the test vehicle) referenced in title 13, CCR sections 1960.1(k) and 1961.2(d).

We welcome and encourage any comments regarding the proposed amendments to the procedures. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Richard Carranza, Air Resources Engineer, at (626) 450-6111 or by email at richard.carranza@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

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