



Air Resources Board



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Mary D. Nichols, Chair
9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
El Monte, California 91731 • www.arb.ca.gov

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

July 20, 2016

Mail-Out #MSC 16-05

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE INSPECTION PROGRAM AND THE PERIODIC SMOKE INSPECTION PROGRAM AND PLANS FOR A FUTURE, COMPREHENSIVE HEAVY-DUTY DIESEL VEHICLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) invites you to participate in a public workshop to learn more about potential regulatory changes to the ARB's Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection Program (HDVIP) and the Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP). Staff also will briefly discuss its plans to develop a comprehensive inspection and maintenance program for heavy-duty (HD) diesel vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating over 14,000 pounds for implementation in the post-2020 timeframe.

The workshops will be held at the following locations and times:

Date: Thursday, August 25, 2016
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Air Resources Board Auditorium
9530 Telstar Avenue, Annex 4
El Monte, California 91731
(The El Monte workshop will not be webcast.)

Date: Friday, September 9, 2016
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: CalEPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street, Sierra Hearing Room
Sacramento, California 95814

The information presented at each location will be identical.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

The Sacramento workshop will be available via webcast for those unable to attend in person. The broadcast can be accessed on the day of the workshop at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>. Information on submitting questions and comments will be provided during the webcast for remote participants. Staff's presentation and any associated documents will be posted prior to the workshop on ARB's website at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/hdim/hdim.htm>.

Background

Heavy-duty vehicles over 8,500 pounds operating in California are currently responsible for about 33 percent of the statewide oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions and about 25 percent of the statewide particulate matter (PM) emissions. Legislative mandates from the late 1980's and early 1990's required ARB to develop regulatory programs to inspect vehicles for excessive smoke emissions and for tampering. These programs, the HDVIP (or the "roadside" program) and the PSIP (or the "fleet" program), remain in force today and are ARB's only HD vehicle screening programs to detect potentially high-emitting in-use trucks.

While these programs have been highly effective, they were established in the early 1990's before the use of exhaust aftertreatment, such as diesel particulate filters (DPF) for 2007 and newer model year engines, and selective catalytic reduction systems for 2010 and newer model year engines. ARB's most comprehensive in-use fleet rule to date, the Truck and Bus Regulation¹, requires the use of both factory installed DPFs and retrofit DPFs. Thus it is important for ARB to ensure that DPFs are well maintained and are working properly in order to achieve expected emission reductions. Additionally, on-board diagnostic (OBD) systems, which are intended to monitor engine and emission control systems performance, were not fully in use in HD engines until the 2013 model year. The current HDVIP and PSIP programs do not take advantage of the extensive capabilities of OBD systems to help ensure in-use compliance.

Thus, California now needs an updated and comprehensive HD vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) program. An important first step in transitioning to a more robust HD I/M program is to revise the current opacity threshold to assist in identifying HD trucks in need of repair due to broken DPFs. At the workshop, staff will discuss potential changes to the HDVIP and PSIP regulations, which include: 1) reducing the current 40 percent smoke opacity limit to account for modern diesel engines equipped with DPFs (both factory installed and retrofits); 2) requiring all fleet smoke opacity testers to be certified to ensure the SAE J1667 snap acceleration smoke test procedures are properly performed; and 3) collecting data from OBD systems from HD vehicles with 2013 and newer model year engines.

¹ ARB's Truck and Bus Regulation. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/onrdiesel.htm>

With stakeholder and industry input, staff plans to propose regulatory amendments to the HDVIP and PSIP to the Board in the fall 2017 timeframe. Building on these potential initial changes and further input from stakeholders and industry, staff plans to continue development towards a more comprehensive HD I/M program with the intent of presenting a proposal to the Board in the 2020 timeframe. A HD I/M program is one component in the ARB's suite of measures to reduce in-use emissions from HD vehicles identified in the Mobile Source Strategy² and the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan³, both publicly released in May 2016. Reductions achieved through a HD I/M program would help address high-emitting trucks that frequently travel in disadvantaged communities, and would assist California in meeting federally-mandated National Ambient Air Quality Standards as well as short-lived climate pollutant reduction goals identified in the Proposed Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy⁴ publicly released in April 2016.

Special Accommodations

If you require a special accommodation or need this document in an alternate format (i.e., braille, large print) or another language, please contact Ms. Phuong Ho, Air Resources Engineer, at (916) 322-4687 or via email at Phuong.Ho@arb.ca.gov as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days before the scheduled meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq.), your written and verbal comments, submitted attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

If you have questions regarding potential regulatory changes to the HDVIP and PSIP that will be discussed at the workshop, please contact Jason Hill-Falkenthal, Ph.D., Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 322-4683 or via email at Jason.Hill-Falkenthal@arb.ca.gov.

² Mobile Source Strategy. May 2016. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/2016sip/2016mobsr.pdf>

³ California Sustainable Freight Action Plan. May 2016.
http://www.casustainablefreight.org/app_pages/view/154

⁴ Proposed Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy. April 2016.
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/shortlived/meetings/04112016/proposedstrategy.pdf>

All Interested Parties
July 20, 2016
Page 4

If you have questions regarding ARB's plans to develop a future, comprehensive HD I/M program, please contact Ms. Krista Fregoso, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 445-5035 or via email at Krista.Fregoso@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael Carter, Assistant Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

cc: Jack Kitowski, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

Krista Fregoso
Air Pollution Specialist
Mobile Source Control Division

Dr. Jason Hill-Falkenthal
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Phuong Ho
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