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Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

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Chairman

9528 Telstar Avenue • P.O. Box 8001 • El Monte, California 91731 • www.arb.ca.gov



Gray Davis
Governor

July 17, 2003

Mail-Out #MSC 03-07

TO: ALL HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE AND ENGINE MANUFACTURERS
ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP REGARDING PROPOSED HEAVY-DUTY
ON-BOARD DIAGNOSTICS (OBD) REGULATIONS

Background: In 1989 the California Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) originally adopted Section 1968.1, Title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR) that contains the malfunction detection and diagnostic system requirements known as OBD II. The regulation required that all 1996 and newer model year light-duty and medium-duty vehicles be equipped with OBD II systems. ARB recently updated the OBD II requirements with the adoption of Section 1968.2, Title 13, CCR, improving and addressing several concerns and issues regarding the OBD II regulation. There are, however, currently no OBD requirements for heavy-duty vehicles and engines.

Workshop: ARB staff has developed proposed regulatory language, which will be brought before the Board at a public hearing scheduled for November 2003, containing OBD requirements for heavy-duty vehicles and engines. The proposed regulation details, among other things, monitoring requirements for emission controls, standardization requirements for communication with off-board repair tools and access to diagnostic information, and certification and demonstration testing requirements.

The staff requests comments from industry in an effort to refine the proposed requirements and implementation schedules in a manner that will allow for efficient and effective use of developmental resources. ARB staff has scheduled a workshop to discuss its current position and proposals regarding these issues and obtain information to further formulate specific proposals prior to the release of the Staff Report and documents relating to the November 2003 Board Hearing. The workshop will be held at the date, time, and location below:

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2003
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Air Resources Board
Room 100, Annex 2
9500 Telstar Avenue
El Monte, California 91731

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

All Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Manufacturers
All Other Interested Parties
July 17, 2003
Page 2

If you would like to make a formal presentation during the workshop, please contact Mr. Michael McCarthy, Manager, Advanced Engineering Section, at (626) 575-6615, or e-mail at mmccarth@arb.ca.gov.

Interested parties unable to participate in the workshop or those wishing to supply additional information are encouraged to submit written comments by August 6, 2003. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Steve Albu, Chief, Engineering Studies Branch, Air Resources Board, 9528 Telstar Avenue, El Monte, California 91731.

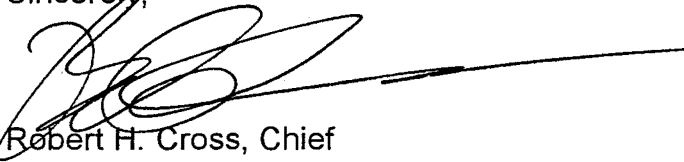
This workshop notice, the draft preliminary staff report, and the draft proposed regulation will be made available on the ARB web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/obdprog/hdobdreg.htm> within the week of July 21st.

Printed copies of the draft preliminary staff report and the draft proposed regulation may be obtained by faxing or mailing the request form attached to the end of this note to the address or number detailed on the form.

If any party wishes the information submitted to be treated as confidential by ARB staff, it should be clearly marked as "confidential" and should be on pages that are easily detachable from other, non-confidential, information. California guidelines (Sections 91000-91002, Title 17, CCR, and Health and Safety Code Section 39660 (e)) will be followed in the handling of confidential information.

To request special accommodations for persons with disabilities, please contact Mr. Michael McCarthy no later than August 6, 2003. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

Attachment

cc: Mr. Michael McCarthy, Manager
Advanced Engineering Section
Mobile Source Control Division