CALIFORNIA
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Smoke Tester Training Course Approval Process

Background: The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) works with the Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection Program (HDVIP) to help ensure that California based fleets and heavy-duty trucks traveling on California's roads are properly maintained and free from excessive smoke. All California-based fleets with two or more heavy-duty diesel vehicles over 6,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) equipped with engines over four years old are required to perform annual[1] smoke opacity tests.

This document provides information on the process to become a CARB-approved provider of an in-person training course for commercial smoke test providers. Per the PSIP regulation,[2] as of July 1, 2019, individuals conducting smoke opacity tests must receive proper training on the testing methodology. Commercial smoke testers must complete in-person training and receive a smoke tester certificate from the California Council on Diesel Education Technology (CCDET) training course or another CARB-approved smoke tester course. Fleet employees testing their fleet's vehicles have the additional option of completing CARB online smoke test training.

Course Requirements: Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 2193(g), specifies:

> § 2193. Smoke Opacity Standards, Inspection Intervals and Test Procedures

> (g) Smoke Test Training Course Requirements
> An entity offering a smoke tester training course must apply to the Executive Officer for approval to become a CARB-approved smoke tester training course provider. An approved smoke tester training course must include the following:

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[1] PSIP requires annual smoke opacity tests for most heavy-duty diesel vehicles; however, diesel vehicles 1998 model year and newer between 6,000 – 14,000 GVWR that are subject to the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) biennial smog check are not subject to PSIP requirements. PSIP also provides exemptions from smoke test requirements for some vehicles. See the CARB Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection and Periodic Smoke Inspection Programs webpage for details: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/heavy-duty-diesel-inspection-periodic-smoke-inspection-program.

[2] PSIP Regulation effective July 1, 2019:
https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/msprog/hdim/doc/hdvip_psip_final_regulation_order_clean.pdf?_ga=2.153272443.2123625819.1566939081-497089856.1552929090.

1. Hands-on training on how to properly perform the testing requirements of this chapter following the equipment and procedure specifications required in section 2193.

2. Hands-on training on how to properly calibrate a smoke meter to meet the specifications of SAE procedure J1667 and the requirements of section 2193(c)(1).

3. Instructional curriculum on the requirements and responsibilities of both the fleet owner and the smoke tester to meet the requirements of sections 2190-2194.

4. A requirement that potential smoke testers successfully pass a written examination and the hands-on training specified in sections 2193(h)(1) and (2).

5. Issuance of a certificate of completion for smoke testers who have successfully passed the smoke tester training examinations as specified in section 2193(h)(4).

CARB Duties:

1. Evaluate and approve or deny applications from interested training provider entities.

2. Offer an online written final exam for students identified by the training provider as having completed the course curricula.

3. Provide students with a certificate of completion and a unique certificate number upon successful completion of the CARB online written final exam and concurrently provide to training provider certificate numbers awarded.

4. Monitor provider compliance throughout the four-year term of approval.

Training Provider Duties (Upon CARB Approval):

1. Provide a smoke tester training course per the application specific curricula.

2. Notify CARB of students who have completed the course curricula and enable those students to take the CARB online written final exam. A list must be provided by email to CARB opacity staff within 10 days of course completion to enable timely access to on-line testing. Student contact information includes the following:

- Student full name, address, phone number, email address, and date of completion of training and eligibility to take the CARB on-line written final exam.
- Name of company that employs student (if applicable), address, phone number, email address, and website.

3. Record the certificate number for each student referred to the CARB online exam to ensure students have completed and passed the course exam.

4. Respond to CARB monitoring during four-year term of approval.

Application Instructions: Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Letter of Intent to obtain CARB approval for an in-person smoke tester training course. The letter must include:
   - Company letterhead.
   - Company name, address, phone number, email address.
   - Name and contact information of the lead instructor and other individuals authorized to teach the training course.
   - Names and signatures of persons authorized to sign documents.
   - A brief overview of the training course.

2. Summary document that lists the expertise and experience that qualifies the applicant to conduct smoke tester training. The application must identify a lead instructor who holds a smoke tester certificate issued by the California Council on Diesel Technology Education and Technology (CCDET) or other recognized training institution AND has at least one year of smoke testing experience. The lead instructor's certificate must be current or have expired within one year of the date of the application.

3. Course syllabus.

4. Course curriculum on the requirements of the PSIP regulation in the form of a presentation with speaking notes. The course curriculum must include:
   - Instruction on the environmental and health impacts of particulate matter and diesel exhaust pollution.
   - Background and history of the HDVIP and PSIP regulations.
   - Requirements and responsibilities of both fleet owners and the smoke testers in the HDVIP and PSIP regulations.
   - Possible violations and citations.
   - Requirements placed on fleets resulting from failed tests.

5. Separate course curriculum for the hands-on training portion of the course. This curriculum must:
   - Identify the smoke meters used for training (units must be capable of following SAE J1667 requirements).
   - Demonstrate the step-by-step process that instructors will follow to teach trainees to properly calibrate smoke meters and conduct a smoke test in compliance with SAE J1667 procedures and the requirements of section 2193(c)(1).

6. Description of the student contact information that will be provided to CARB for each individual that completes the course curricula, including what information will be provided and how it will be formatted.

7. Description of:
   - How potential smoke testers will register for the training course.
   - How frequently the training course will be offered.
   - Training course location(s).
   - Length of time the course is expected to last.
   - Expected cost of the course.

8. A web link and a high-level summary (one or two sentences) of the course for CARB's website to inform the public that your course is CARB-approved.

9. Any additional relevant information or documents to be distributed to participants or necessary for course administration.

10. Description of retention policy for course records.

CARB Review Process: Upon submittal of the application, CARB staff will conduct a preliminary review and notify the applicant whether there is sufficient information to conduct a full review. If warranted, staff will conduct a full review and either respond with clarifications and edits or approve the application and issue a CARB-Approved Smoke Tester Training Course letter. CARB encourages applicants to be responsive to CARB feedback, failure to respond could result in delays in the application process and potentially lead to rejection of the application.

Post CARB Approval: CARB approval expires four years after the date of original approval or upon modification or elimination of the PSIP regulation, whichever comes first. Note that CARB at its sole discretion reserves the right to:

1. Examine or audit the course, exam, and certificate records.

2. Disallow tester certificates.

3. Remove approval of the course upon written notice.

4. Prohibit the entity's future participation due to its noncompliance with project requirements or fraud.

Please address all communication to opacity staff, Tim Hartigan, email Tim.Hartigan@arb.ca.gov.