

# Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) Frequently Asked Questions



## 1. What is the Periodic Smoke Inspection Program Regulation known as PSIP?

The Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) ensures that heavy-duty diesel vehicles registered in California are operating with properly functioning emissions control equipment without excessive smoke and are tamper free. PSIP requires on-road fleets with two or more diesel vehicles greater than 6,000 pounds (lbs.) Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) to test their vehicles annually for smoke emissions and promptly repair them if necessary.

## 2. What vehicles are required to do smoke opacity testing or comply with PSIP?

- PSIP sets smoke opacity limits for most on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles greater than 6,000 lbs. GVWR that are registered in California.
- Fleets with two or more vehicles are subject to these requirements, while a person registered as the owner of a single vehicle by the California DMV is not subject to PSIP.

## 3. What are the new amendments?

- PSIP was updated July 1, 2019 to lower opacity limits to 5 percent for most vehicles with a diesel particulate filter (DPF). Review the table below, for the Allowable Levels of Smoke Opacity.
- PSIP Smoke Testers must be trained and certified, [click here for specifics](#).
- New option for fleets to submit annual On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) data instead of PSIP smoke opacity tests for model year 2013 and newer vehicles. [OBD submission guidance](#).
- Review the PSIP Smoke Testing Compliance [Advisory 298](#).

### Allowable Levels of Smoke Opacity

<b>Engines Equipped with a Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF)</b>	
5% Opacity Limit	
<b>Pre-2007 Model Year (MY) Engines without a DPF</b>	
1997 – 2006 MY Engines	20% Opacity Limit
1991 – 1996 MY Engines	30% Opacity Limit
Pre-1991 MY Engines	40% Opacity Limit
<b>Engines Equipped with a Level 2 Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategy (VDECS)</b>	
20% Opacity Limit	
<b>Two-Engine Cranes Driven by a non-DPF Off-Road Engine</b>	
40% Opacity Limit	

## 4. What are the exemptions for PSIP?

- Personal use vehicles, such as recreational vehicles.
- Vehicles registered in states other than California.
- Heavy-duty vehicles with diesel engines less than 4 years old.
  - Most trucks have an engine one year older than the chassis, a 2010 vehicle may have a 2009 model year engine (MYE)
  - For example, a vehicle with a 2017 model year engine (MYE) is exempt in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, and must begin testing in 2021.
- Tactical Military Vehicles.
- Model year 1998 or newer diesel vehicles 6,000 lbs. to 14,000 lbs. GVWR registered in Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) "Enhanced" or "Basic" SMOG Test areas.
  - Those registered in BAR "Change of Ownership" areas are NOT exempt and are subject to bi-annual (every other year) PSIP smoke opacity testing.
  - Vehicle registration ZIP Code determines the BAR SMOG Test areas: look up the BAR SMOG Test areas [click here](#).

## 5. How often must a vehicle be tested?

- Diesel vehicles with GVWR of 14,001 lbs. and greater must perform a smoke opacity test or submit OBD data annually (once a year) by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Extensions to complete testing after December 31<sup>st</sup> for a compliance year are not allowed.
- Model year 1998 or newer diesel vehicles with GVWR of 6,000 lbs. to 14,000 lbs. and registered in BAR SMOG "Change of Ownership" SMOG Test areas must have a PSIP smoke opacity test every other year.

## 6. What are the record keeping requirements for PSIP?

- Fleets are required to maintain the two most recent, consecutive years of PSIP smoke opacity test results for each vehicle, including repair information, post-repair opacity results, and smoke meter calibrations.
- There is no requirement for fleets to submit PSIP smoke opacity tests to CARB except when a fleet is being audited; however, if you choose a OBD scan instead of a smoke test you must submit those records to CARB ([see above for OBD submission](#)).
- CARB has the authority to audit records of all heavy-duty diesel vehicles at the owner/operator designated fleet location.

7. How do I know if my 1998 or newer diesel vehicle with GVWR of 6,000 lbs. to 14,000 lbs. is registered in a BAR "Change of Ownership" SMOG Test area and must be tested every other year?

- Vehicle registration ZIP Code determines the BAR SMOG Test areas: to look up the BAR SMOG Test areas [click here](#).
- If the vehicle is registered in an "Enhanced" or "Basic" BAR SMOG Test area, the vehicle is exempt from PSIP but must follow BAR SMOG Test requirements.
- If the vehicle is registered in a "Change of Ownership" BAR SMOG Test area, the vehicle must have a PSIP smoke opacity test every other year.
  - Vehicles with VINs ending in an odd number must test in odd calendar years and VINs ending in even number must test in even years. For example, a VIN ending in 7 would test in 2021, 2023, and so on.
  - Note that a PSIP smoke opacity test is different than a BAR SMOG Test and must be performed by a PSIP certified tester.

8. What happens if my vehicle does not pass a PSIP smoke opacity test?

A vehicle that fails a smoke opacity test must be repaired and retested within 45-days.

9. Should I rely on the Pass/Fail outcome for the smoke opacity meter?

- Pass/Fail criteria can be set by the smoke opacity meter, but the standard the truck is required to meet is based on the PSIP opacity chart, so only a comparison with the opacity measurement and chart should be relied on to determine Pass/Fail criteria.

10. What are the penalties that CARB can assess for vehicles not complying with PSIP?

- For current maximum penalty amounts, please refer to the California Health and Safety Code 43016.

11. What are the PSIP Smoke Tester training requirements?

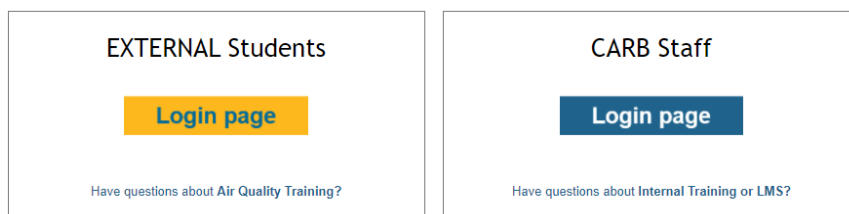
- All smoke opacity tests must be conducted by certified testers.
  - Smoke Tester certification is valid for 4 years upon completion of training.
  - A smoke test completed by a tester with an expired certificate is not a valid test.
- Commercial PSIP smoke testers must complete training conducted by California Council on Diesel Education and Technology (CCDET) through many California Community Colleges:
  - CCDET HDVIP/PSIP courses, for available training courses [click here](#).
  - For Testers with expired CCDET Certificates, to continue as a commercial smoke tester they are required to re-certify at a CCDET college.

# Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) Frequently Asked Questions

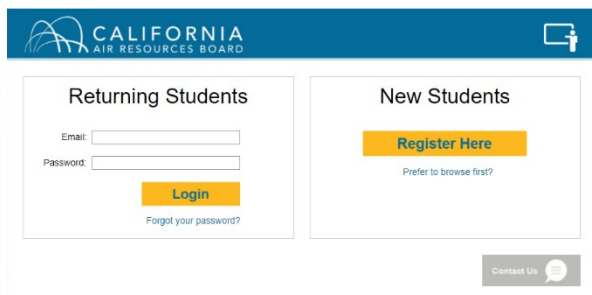
- Fleet owners and employees who test their fleet’s own vehicles must complete either the CCDET I HDVIP/PSIP course (see above), or the free CARB on-line Smoke Test Training (see below).
- Certificate numbers are unique to the specific certified smoke tester course (CCDET or CARB LMS MS529), *they are not interchangeable.*

## 12. How do I enroll in the free CARB online PSIP smoke test training?

- This training is for fleet owners and employees who test their fleet’s own vehicles; commercial smoke testers must take the CCDET I HDVIP/PSIP course (see #11).
- To register and enroll in the training, visit CARB’s Learning Management System (LMS), [click here](#).
- Select ‘External Students’.



- To Create a new LMS User account, select ‘New Students’, Register Here.



- First, confirm the email is accurate for CARB Training notifications (very important).
- To enroll in “MS529 Online Smoke Test Training” course, search for course MS529 and select “enroll”.
- Once enrolled, there are two-hours of training and a post-exam to complete.
- For LMS Training questions or issues, contact [arbtrain@arb.ca.gov](mailto:arbtrain@arb.ca.gov).

## 13. What happens after completing the MS529 Smoke Tester Training course?

- Upon full completion of the course and passing the post-exam, a certificate will be immediately emailed and within 10 days the certificate number will be emailed.
- The certificate is valid for 4 years.

# Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP)

## Frequently Asked Questions



14. I cannot locate my PSIP Certification Number, how may I request it?

- If you are certified by a CCDET course, [click here](#) to contact the specific college.
- If you are certified by the CARB MS529 Online Course, contact [CARB\\_PSIP@arb.ca.gov](mailto:CARB_PSIP@arb.ca.gov).

15. I'm a commercial smoke tester, how can I be added to CARB's posted Commercial Smoke Test Facilities list?

Send an email request to [CARB\\_PSIP@arb.ca.gov](mailto:CARB_PSIP@arb.ca.gov) with the required information:

- Image of a valid CCDET Certification.
- Company name and address.
- Contact person, phone number, and email.
- If the company is only a mobile testing service, California region served (city(s), county(s), or area (for example, Northern California or Los Angeles).

16. How long will the PSIP regulation last?

CARB is working on a new regulation to replace PSIP in 2024-2025, for information on the Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance (HD I/M) regulation [click here](#).

### Resources

- [CARB Heavy Duty Diesel Inspection and Periodic Smoke Inspection Program Website](#)
- [Periodic Smoke Inspection Program Regulation](#)
- [PSIP Program Overview \(Sept 2020\)](#)
- CARB courtesy lists for:
  - [Smoke Meter Manufacturers \(SAE J1667 compliant\)](#)
  - [California based Commercial Smoke Testers](#)
- For CARB's comprehensive list of diesel regulations, visit [TruckStop](#)
- Please contact us if more information is needed at [CARB\\_PSIP@arb.ca.gov](mailto:CARB_PSIP@arb.ca.gov)