

Exemption Application for the Innovative Clean Transit Zero-Emission Bus Purchase Requirements

Template 4.1: Zero-Emission Bus Unavailability Based on the Comprehensive Review Results for the Calendar Years 2026 Through 2028

***Disclaimer:** Transit agencies wishing to request an exemption due to Zero-Emission Bus Unavailability reasons are encouraged, but not required, to use this application template for an easier, streamlined process. This template does not replace the [ICT regulatory text](#), which takes precedence in all instances.*

This exemption can be used when a transit agency plans to purchase cutaway class 4, over-the-road, and double-decker buses during the calendar years 2026 through 2028.¹ The exemption is based on the results of the [Phase II of the Comprehensive Review](#).

The Comprehensive Review examined numerous factors including cost and funding, technology reliability and availability, infrastructure readiness, funding availability, market readiness, zero-emission bus deployment barriers, and others. The Phase II analysis of this review focuses on the program readiness for years 2026-2028. The review has concluded that the zero-emission bus market and technology for cutaway, over-the-road, and double-decker buses are not ready in the near term.

Please follow the instructions below when using this exemption application. A complete application must be submitted by November 30 of each calendar year. A transit agency may purchase conventional internal combustion engine buses instead of zero-emission buses once the exemption request is granted. Please submit your complete application to the Innovative Clean Transit team at ICT@arb.ca.gov.

Section I. Transit Contact Information

Provide the contact information of the responsible official. Add more contact(s) if needed.

Calendar year for the request: _____
Contact person name: _____
Contact person title: _____
Contact person email: _____
Contact person phone number: _____
Transit agency name: _____
Mailing address: _____

¹ Cutaway class 4 has gross vehicle weight rating of 14,001-16,000 lbs.

Section II. Exemption Option for Unavailability of Zero-Emission Buses Based on Comprehensive Review Results

Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, section 2023.4(c)(4), provides an exemption from the zero-emission bus purchase requirements when a required zero-emission bus type, for the applicable weight class based on gross vehicle weight rating, is not available for purchase. Phase II of the Comprehensive Review concluded that the zero-emission bus market and associated technologies for cutaway, over-the-road, and double-decker buses have not been sufficiently developed. The limited number of available models of these bus types does not meet the operational and performance needs for transit agencies. Based on these findings, California Air Resources Board (CARB) considers these bus types unavailable for purchase in the near term.

Transit agencies that are planning to purchase class 4 cutaway, over-the-road, and double-decker buses during calendar years 2026 through 2028 may use this exemption. Exemptions are granted on an annual basis. Transit agencies may submit the request annually or a three-year purchase plan with an annual update to receive an annual exemption, provided they comply with all other requirements set forth in the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) Regulation. This exemption does not affect the validity or enforceability of any requirements under the ICT Regulation.

Transit agencies wishing to use this exemption must report all annual bus purchases and maintain an up-to-date bus inventory in the [Innovative Clean Transit Reporting Tool \(ICTRT\)](#). Transit agencies are responsible for ensuring that reported information remains accurate throughout the entire exemption period. If CARB determines that the exemption was granted based on incomplete, inaccurate information, or that the transit agency failed to fully and accurately report its annual purchases, the exemption may be revoked. A revoked exemption will be treated as a failure to comply with the zero-emission bus requirements set forth in section 2023.1. CARB reserves the right to request supplemental information or documentation.

Please check the boxes next to each statement below to request an exemption from the zero-emission bus purchase requirements and to confirm understanding of the applicable conditions and obligations.

- ☐ I request an exemption from the zero-emission bus purchase requirements of the Innovative Clean Transit regulation for the purchase of zero-emission class 4 cutaway, over-the-road, and double-decker buses due to unavailability of zero-emission bus based on Phase II of the Comprehensive Review results.
- ☐ I understand that I must report all annual bus purchases and deliveries before the annual reporting deadline, as well as maintain a complete and up-to-date bus inventory throughout the exemption period. All reporting must be submitted through the Innovative Clean Transit Reporting Tool.
- ☐ I understand that I must provide an annual update to my three-year bus purchase plan, if I plan to have multi-year purchases. No bus purchase plan is needed if the exemption request is only for a single year.