

State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 24-5-5: Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation and the Zero-Emission Powertrain Certification Test Procedure

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve for adoption the proposed amendments to the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) regulation (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 13, §1963, 1963.1, 1963.2, 1963.3, 1963.4, and 1963.5, and proposed adoption of new §1963.6) and the Zero-Emission Powertrain Certification test procedure. The proposed amendments constitute minor, administrative changes with no emissions impact that primarily aim to fulfill commitments to bring forward regulatory proposals that were made in the Clean Truck Partnership agreement (Agreement) by 2024 and would ensure that the interpretation of definitions and rule requirements match closely with the original intent of the Board as well as streamline implementation.

Discussion:

In July 2023, CARB announced the Agreement with the nation's leading major truck manufacturers that advances the development of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) for the trucking industry, provides increased flexibility for manufacturers to meet emissions requirements, and establishes a joint commitment towards reaching the State's climate and emission reduction goals.¹ The Agreement requires initiation of a rulemaking action in 2024 for specific amendments to the ACT regulation which staff is fulfilling by presenting the item to the Board with a recommendation for adoption. Some of the proposed amendments to the ACT regulation incorporate those outlined in the Agreement, including increasing the deficit makeup period and clarifying that compliance determination and sales reporting requirements are both defined when vehicles are produced and delivered for sale in California. Staff is additionally proposing minor clarifications to the ACT definitions, rule requirements, and reporting and record keeping requirements to address stakeholder issues that have arisen through the rule's implementation and to improve enforceability.

¹ CARB, CARB and truck and engine manufacturers announce unprecedented partnership to meet clean air goals, July 6, 2023 (web link: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/news/carb-and-truck-and-engine-manufacturers-announce-unprecedented-partnership-meet-clean-air> last accessed August 2024).

Lastly, staff is proposing to provide an optional pathway for manufacturers to certify complete medium-duty ZEVs through the Zero-Emission Powertrain Certification test procedures.

Summary and Impacts:

The proposed amendments have minimal cost impacts with an ultimate total net decrease in costs when compared to the baseline. The cost increases of the proposed amendments are approximately \$25,000, and the cost reductions or benefits of the proposed amendments are approximately \$470,000, resulting in a total net cost of -\$450,000, rounded to two significant figures.

Based on CARB's review, no supplemental or subsequent environmental analysis is required under the California Environmental Quality Act for these proposed modifications to the ACT regulation because, as described in the Initial Statement of Reasons, the proposed changes do not result in any new environmental impacts or in a substantial increase in severity to the impacts previously disclosed in the Final Environmental Analysis for the Proposed Advanced Clean Truck Regulation (2020). Further, there are no changes in circumstances or new information that would otherwise warrant an additional environmental review.