



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
El Monte, California 91731 www.arb.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 23, 2005

Mail-Out #MSC 05-15

TO: ALL INDEPENDENT SERVICE REPAIR FACILITIES
ALL MANUFACTURERS OF AFTERMARKET PARTS
ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
THE CALIFORNIA EVALUATION PROCEDURES FOR NEW
AFTERMARKET CATALYTIC CONVERTERS AND THE AFTERMARKET
PARTS REGULATION

Background: California Vehicle Code sections 27156 and 38391 prohibit the sale, offer for sale, advertisement, or installation of any device which alters or modifies the original design or performance of any required motor vehicle pollution control device or system unless that device has been exempted by the Air Resources Board (ARB or the Board). New aftermarket catalytic converters will be exempted if they comply with the requirements of Title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 2222(h) and "California Evaluation Procedures for New Aftermarket Catalytic Converters" adopted on August 19, 1988, and the "Optional Evaluation Procedures for New Aftermarket Non-Original Equipment Catalytic Converters in Motor Vehicles Equipped With On-Board Diagnostic (OBD II) Systems" that went into effect December 2001. Catalytic converters that are replacement parts, i.e., new original equipment manufacturers' converters and other converters meeting the criteria of Title 13, CCR section 1900(b)(14)) do not require exemptions.

Proposed Adoption of Amendments to the Aftermarket Parts Regulation and the "California Evaluations Procedures for Catalytic Converters": ARB staff is developing proposed amendments to section 2222(h), which will be brought before the Board at a public hearing scheduled for September 2005. The proposed amendments would: require that aftermarket catalytic converters only be used on a vehicle outside the vehicle manufacturers' catalytic converter warranty period, detail enhanced certification application requirements to provide standardized formatting between catalytic converter manufacturers, and adopt the amended 2001 "Optional Evaluation Procedures for New Aftermarket Non-Original Equipment Catalytic Converters in Motor Vehicles Equipped With OBD II Systems" as the "California Evaluation Procedures for Catalytic Converters" incorporated in Title 13, Section 2222 (h).

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

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The proposed amended "California Evaluation Procedures for Catalytic Converters" would specify criteria intended to ensure that new aftermarket catalytic converters will have sufficiently high conversion efficiency to meet the vehicle emission standards for a minimum of 50,000 miles and will be compatible with the OBD II systems required by Title 13, CCR sections 1968.1 and 1968.2. The proposed amendments also include several changes to make it easier for catalyst installers to identify the correct catalyst to install as well as for Smog Check technicians/inspectors to identify improperly installed catalysts.

Workshop: The staff requests comments from industry in an effort to refine the proposed amendments in a manner that will allow for an efficient and effective regulation. 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 September 2005 Board Hearing.

The workshop will be held at the date, time, and location below:

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Air Resources Board
Annex IV Auditorium
9530 Telstar Avenue
El Monte, California 91731

If you would like to make a formal presentation during the workshop, please contact Mr. Michael McCarthy, Manager, 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 June 8, 2005. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Steve Albu, Chief, Engineering Studies Branch Air Resources Board, 9528 Telstar Avenue, El Monte, California 91731.

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.

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This workshop notice, and the draft "California Evaluation Procedures for Catalytic Converters" will be made available on the ARB website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aftermkt/aftermkt.htm>.

Printed copies of these documents 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.

To request special accommodations for persons with disabilities, please contact Mr. Michael McCarthy no later than June 8, 2005. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

Attachment

Request for Draft Regulatory Documents

The draft proposed amendments to “California Evaluation Procedures for Catalytic Converters” can be found on the Air Resources Board’s website, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aftermkt/aftermkt.htm>

If you would like to receive a hard copy this document, please mail or fax this form to:

Ms. Adriann Medina
California Air Resources Board
9528 Telstar Avenue
El Monte, California 91731

FAX: (626) 575-7012 Phone: (626) 459-4405

_____ Draft Proposed Amendments to the “California Evaluation Procedures for Catalytic Converters.” (12+ pages)

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____
