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# Air Resources Board

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Governor

January 26, 2011

Mail-Out #MSC 11-02

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM MAIL-OUT 11-02—2011  
MODEL YEAR EMISSION STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR PROGRAM  
FUNDING

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This mail-out provides guidance to air districts and public school districts participating in the Lower-Emission School Bus Program (LESBP) regarding the emission criteria that replacement school bus contracts need to meet in Calendar Year 2011 to qualify for funding.

## 2011 Model Year (MY) Replacement Bus Emission Criteria

Air Resources Board set more stringent emission standards for 2007 MY and newer heavy-duty diesel engines when the LESBP 2008 Guidelines were approved. For the LESBP, this translated into emission criteria of 1.44 grams per brake horsepower/hour (g/bhp-hr) Oxides of Nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) and 0.01 g/bhp-hr particulate matter (PM) for 2007-2009 MY school buses and 0.2 g/bhp-hr NO<sub>x</sub> and 0.01 g/bhp-hr PM for 2010 MY school buses.

Due to the limited number of MY 2010 school buses that were being manufactured and certified at or below the 0.2 g/bhp-hr NO<sub>x</sub> emission levels, the NO<sub>x</sub> emission criteria for replacement school buses being funded through the LESBP was changed to 0.50 g/bhp-hr for the NO<sub>x</sub> family emission limit (FEL) and the NO<sub>x</sub> + Non-methane Hydrocarbons FEL during the March 2010 Board meeting. This change was for the NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard ONLY; the PM requirement of 0.01 g/bhp-hr is still in effect and has not changed.

ARB staff has reviewed executive orders for 2011 MY school bus engines and determined most manufacturers will continue to utilize current engines in Calendar Year 2011. Therefore, the emission criteria for replacement school buses being funded through the LESBP will remain unchanged - 0.50 g/bhp-hr for the NO<sub>x</sub> FEL and 0.01 g/bhp-hr PM for Calendar Year 2011.

*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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This information will continue to be evaluated and updated at the staff level by the end of the first quarter of each year. If you have questions regarding this mail-out, please contact Ms. Janet Page, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 324-1988 or via email at [jpage@arb.ca.gov](mailto:jpage@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, Chief  
Mobile Source Control Division

cc: Janet Page  
Air Pollution Specialist  
Planning and Regulatory Development Section