



Air Resources Board



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
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Mail-Out #MSC 13-02

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: THE LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM – 2013 MODEL YEAR
REPLACEMENT BUS EMISSION CRITERIA – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013 TO
DECEMBER 31, 2013

The approved 2008 Lower-Emission School Bus Program Guidelines include emission criteria for replacement vehicles. Initially, 2010 and newer model year school bus engines were required to meet the 0.20 grams per brake horsepower-hour (g/bhp-hr) oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and 0.01 g/bhp-hr particulate matter (PM) standards. However, due to the limited number of model year 2010 school buses that were manufactured and certified at or below the 0.20 g/bhp-hr NOx emission levels, the NOx emission criteria for replacement school buses was changed to 0.50 g/bhp-hr for the NOx family emission limit (FEL) and the NOx + non-methane hydrocarbons FEL during the March 2010 Board meeting. This modification was for the NOx emission standard ONLY; the PM requirement of 0.01 g/bhp-hr is still in effect and has not changed. This change allowed continued funding for the cleanest school buses available.

Air Resources Board (ARB or Board), at its March 2010 meeting, also directed staff to review the emission criteria requirement annually, and adjust it accordingly. As such, ARB staff has reviewed executive orders for 2013 model year school bus engines and determined that although some buses will be available from manufacturers at less than 0.50 g/bhp-hr NOx, a significant portion of new buses are expected to remain at 0.50 g/bhp-hr. Therefore, in order to ensure that sufficient new buses are available to replace older buses, ARB maintains the 0.50 g/bhp-hr NOx and 0.01 g/bhp-hr PM maximum emission criteria for contracts executed through calendar year 2013.

If you have questions regarding this Mail-Out, please contact Ms. Janet Page, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 324-1988 or via email at jpape@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, M.S.M.E, P.E.
Chief, Mobile Source Control Division

cc: Ms. Janet Page
Air Pollution Specialist
Mobile Source Control Division

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