



Air Resources Board



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
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Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

December 27, 2013

Mail-Out #MSC 13-33

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: THE LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM – REPLACEMENT
BUS EMISSION CRITERIA – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014 TO
DECEMBER 31, 2014

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 gram per brake horsepower-hour (g/bhp-hr) oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) 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 NO_x emission levels, the NO_x emission criteria for replacement school buses was changed to 0.50 g/bhp-hr for the NO_x family emission limit (FEL) and the NO_x + non-methane hydrocarbons FEL during the March 2010 Board meeting. This modification was for the NO_x 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.

The 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 and 2014 model year school bus engines and determined that although some buses will be available from manufacturers at less than 0.50 g/bhp-hr NO_x, 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 NO_x and 0.01 g/bhp-hr PM maximum emission criteria for contracts executed through calendar year 2014.

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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If you have questions regarding this Mail-Out, please contact Ms. Kimya Lambert, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 323-2507 or via email at klambert@arb.ca.gov .

Sincerely,

/s/

Erik White, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

cc: Ms. Kimya Lambert
Air Pollution Specialist
Mobile Source Control Division