



# Air Resources Board



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**Mary D. Nichols, Chairman**  
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**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

DATE January 12, 2015 Mail-Out #MSC 15-01

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: THE LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM – REPLACEMENT  
BUS EMISSION CRITERIA – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015 TO  
DECEMBER 31, 2015

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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<sub>x</sub>) 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<sub>x</sub> emission levels, the NO<sub>x</sub> emission criterion for replacement school buses 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 modification 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. 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 2015 model year school bus engines and determined that new school buses that meet the 0.20 g/bhp-hr NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard are readily available to purchase from the three school bus vendors in California. Therefore, ARB is adjusting the NO<sub>x</sub> emission criterion. The maximum emission criteria for contracts executed through calendar year 2015 are 0.20 g/bhp-hr NO<sub>x</sub> and 0.01 g/bhp-hr PM.

*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 [kimya.lambert@arb.ca.gov](mailto:kimya.lambert@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Erik White, Chief  
Mobile Source Control Division

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