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# Air Resources Board

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Gray Davis  
Governor

September 26, 2001

MAIL-OUT # MSO 01-05

TO: All California-Based Heavy-Duty Fleet Operators  
All California Heavy-Duty Vehicle Owners  
All California Public Agencies  
All Other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP)

**Attention all transportation fleets of two or more heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles.**

Since 1998, State law<sup>1</sup> has required private and public transportation fleets to assist California's efforts to provide a healthier environment for all its citizens. The assistance of transportation fleets in reducing harmful diesel exhaust emissions is a vital component of these efforts.

California's Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) requires all businesses, public agencies, and schools that operate two or more heavy-duty diesel fueled vehicles in California to annually test each vehicle for signs of excessive smoke emissions. This correspondence notifies all fleet owners that the Air Resources Board (ARB) has been and will continue to perform audits throughout California to ensure compliance with the PSIP regulations and penalties may be assessed for violations.

To ensure accurate results, all smoke opacity tests are conducted per the specifications of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J1667 "Snap-Acceleration Smoke Test Procedures for Heavy-Duty Diesel Powered Vehicles". These tests may be conducted by your organization or by outside contractors equipped to provide this service. However, to ensure a quality PSIP testing program, it is recommended that the testing technician attend a one day training session sponsored by the California Council on Diesel Education and Technology at a participating local community college.

The applicable smoke opacity limits are 40 percent opacity for 1991 and newer engines and 55 percent opacity for engines that are older than 1991. Vehicles that exceed

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<sup>1</sup> California Health and Safety Code sections 44011.6 and 43701(a). The California Code of Regulations, Title 13 section 2180 et. seq. and section 2190 et. seq.

*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>.*

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these limits are required to be repaired and tested to verify compliance. Note that heavy-duty diesel vehicles that are four years old or newer are exempt from the PSIP. All test and repair records must be retained for a minimum of two years.

With a quality PSIP, fleets can experience lower operating costs, and prevent costly citations. Above all, fleets can promote their public image of smoke free trucks.

For further information regarding the PSIP, please contact the ARB, at (626) 450-6177 or you may call (800) 242-4450, (800) END-SMOG or visit the ARB website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/hdvp/hdvp.htm>.

Sincerely,

R.B. Summerfield, Chief /s/  
Mobile Source Operations Division