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Air Resources Board

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Gray Davis
Governor

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TO: - ALL MANUFACTURERS OF PASSENGER CARS, LIGHT-DUTY TRUCKS,
MEDIUM-DUTY ENGINES AND VEHICLES, AND HEAVY-DUTY ENGINES
- ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: Waiver of Vehicle Emission Configuration (VEC) Bar-Code Label Requirement for
2003 Model-Year (MY) and Newer Vehicles and Engines

Section 3. of the "California Motor Vehicle Emission Control And Smog Index Label Specifications" (CA Label Specifications), incorporated by reference in Title 13, California Code of Regulations, Section 1965 requires that production vehicles and engines have a machine-readable VEC bar-code label. The VEC bar-code label is intended to enhance the performance of the "Smog Check" test by providing pertinent emissions-related information of a vehicle/engine. The unique correspondence between a VEC bar-code label and the certified engine family/test group can help identify pattern failures of in-use vehicles. However, the "Smog Check" test currently does not include the procedure for a technician to scan the VEC bar-code label, nor does the "Smog Check" test analyzer system have the software to read and store the VEC bar-code label's information. The VEC bar-code label is, therefore, no longer considered an effective aid to the "Smog Check" program. Further, the protocol for the bar-code requires frequent upgrading to maintain consistency with new emission standards adopted by the ARB and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Consequently, vehicle manufacturers recently requested that the ARB waive the VEC bar-code label requirement.

Section 9. of the CA Label Specifications allows the Executive Officer, upon request, to waive or modify the label content requirements provided that the intent of the requirements are met. Since the VEC bar-code label is no longer used in "Smog Check" tests, the ARB believes that waiving the requirement for a VEC bar-code label is appropriate and is therefore waiving the requirement for new MY 2003 and newer vehicles/engines to have a VEC bar-code label.

Should you have further questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Steven Hada, Air Resources Engineer, On-Road Certification/Audit Section at (626) 575-6641, or by e-mail at shada@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Allen Lyons, Chief
Mobile Source Operations 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