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# Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

October 20, 2006

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**TO : ALL CALIFORNIA-BASED HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE OPERATORS**

**SUBJECT : ENFORCEMENT OF CALIFORNIA'S FLEET PERIODIC SMOKE INSPECTION AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE INSPECTION PROGRAMS**

In July 1998, the Air Resources Board (ARB) implemented its fleet Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP). Under this program, owners of California-based fleets with two or more vehicles are required to perform annual smoke opacity tests on their heavy-duty diesel-powered vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 6,000 lbs. A fleet facility may use either their own technicians or contract with an outside facility to perform the smoke opacity tests. All smoke opacity tests must comply with the Society of Automotive Engineers J1667 test procedures. Since October 1, 1999, owners of California-based fleets have had to comply with all of the following:

- All heavy-duty diesel powered vehicles (except those with engines that are four years old or newer or those used exclusively for personal use such as a motor home) must be tested annually with a smoke opacity meter according to the SAE J1667 test specifications and procedures;
- All heavy-duty diesel powered vehicles must meet the applicable opacity standards of 55% for pre-1991 engines and 40% for 1991 and newer engines;
- All heavy-duty diesel powered vehicles determined to be in non-compliance must be promptly repaired and brought into compliance;
- Records of opacity tests, repair information, and post repair opacity tests for each vehicle must be maintained for at least two years.

The ARB has the authority to audit the inspection records of all heavy-duty diesel-powered vehicles at owner / operator designated fleet locations and to test vehicles for compliance. Audits are currently being conducted by the ARB's Mobile Source Operations Division. Fleets found to be non-compliant will be subject to legal action and significant civil penalties.

In addition to the PSIP, the ARB's Enforcement Division administers a roadside smoke inspection program known as the Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection Program (HDVIP). Enforcement of the HDVIP is conducted at CHP truck inspection facilities, random roadside locations, and at truck fleet facilities. Compliance with the HDVIP is also mandatory and vehicles determined to exceed the opacity standards are issue citations or notices of violation.

The purpose of both programs is to reduce excessive smoke emissions from heavy-duty vehicles that operate in California. These programs are required under California Health and Safety Code sections 44011.6 and 43701(a), respectively. California Code of Regulations, Title 13 section 2180 et. seq. and section 2190 et. seq. specify the test procedures, standards, and

applicable penalties. In addition, well maintained engines operate at maximum fuel economy, which effectively reduces operating costs and helps promote a positive image for the industry.

The best way to avoid penalties is to keep vehicles maintained according to the engine manufacturers' specifications. The ARB also encourages fleet maintenance personnel to attend the California Council on Diesel Education and Technology (CCDET) training programs. The CCDET program is an educational partnership sponsored by government, private industry and the California community colleges, and offers training for fleet and smoke test technicians on how to comply with the HDVIP and the PSIP requirements.

For further information regarding these programs, please contact our offices at the following:

For PSIP information: Please contact Mr. Ramon Cabrera, Air Pollution Specialist, at (626) 450-6177 or by e-mail at: [rcabrera@arb.ca.gov](mailto:rcabrera@arb.ca.gov).

For HDVIP information: In Northern California, please call the Heavy-Duty Diesel Enforcement Section-North at (916) 322-7061 or in Southern California, please call the Heavy-Duty Diesel Enforcement Section-South at (626) 450-6161.

You can also visit our website at [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov) for further information about these programs. A listing of facilities that are qualified to conduct PSIP and HDVIP testing can be obtained from our website or by contacting the appropriate offices noted above.

Sincerely,

/s/

Annette Hebert, Chief  
Mobile Source Operations Division

/s/

James Ryden, Chief  
Enforcement 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

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