

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

AMENDMENTS TO CALIFORNIA EVALUATION PROCEDURES FOR NEW AFTERMARKET CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

Sections Affected: Proposed amendment to California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 2222 and to the "California Evaluation Procedures for New Aftermarket Catalytic Converters," as adopted October 25, 2007, incorporated by reference therein.

Background and Effect of the Proposed Regulatory Action:

State law generally prohibits the installation, sale, offer for sale, or advertisement of emission-related parts for motor vehicles that are not functionally identical to those installed by the original equipment manufacturer. However, California regulations allow new aftermarket catalytic converters to be used on older vehicles operating within California provided that they comply with established performance requirements, as determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board). These performance requirements balance the continued need for controlling emissions from motor vehicles as they age against the cost of replacing catalytic converters on vehicles that often have a limited remaining lifetime and relatively low marketplace value.

In 2007, when California's current aftermarket catalytic converter regulations were adopted, light- and medium-duty vehicles sold in this state were required to certify to the Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) II emission standards. Therefore, the existing aftermarket catalytic converter regulations provide a process for certification testing only on LEV II and older vehicles. In 2012, CARB adopted the next generation LEV III regulations. The LEV III regulations vehicles reduce emissions beyond those achieved by LEV II by establishing more stringent vehicle emission standards, which are phased-in beginning with the 2015 model year (LEV III also provided an option for early certification to these standards in model year 2014.).

Accordingly, staff proposed amendments to the procedures it uses to evaluate and certify aftermarket catalytic converters designed for use on California passenger cars and trucks. These amendments would incorporate LEV III standards and test procedures to provide a process for certifying aftermarket catalytic converters for LEV III vehicles. This would allow CARB-certified aftermarket catalytic converters to be sold and installed on LEV III vehicles.

The Board's Regulatory Action:

At its September 28, 2017, public hearing, the Board approved the proposed modifications to the California Evaluation Procedures for New Aftermarket Catalytic Converters. The Board did not receive any written comments during the 45-day comment period, and no written or oral comments were presented at the Board Hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board approved Resolution 17-26, in which it directed the Executive Officer to finalize the proposed amendments as specified in the resolution.