



# Air Resources Board



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**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

DATE: October 21, 2015

Mail-Out #MSC 15-26

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: THE LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM – REPLACEMENT  
SCHOOL BUS EMISSION CRITERIA – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016  
UNTIL RESCINDED

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The approved 2008 Lower-Emission School Bus Program (LESBP) 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 25, 2010 Board meeting. This modification was for the NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard ONLY; the PM requirement of 0.01 g/bhp-hr was still in effect and has not changed. This change allowed continued funding for the cleanest school buses available.

In addition, the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board), at its March 25, 2010 meeting, revised the 2008 LESBP Guidelines to require that staff review the emission criteria requirement annually, and adjust it accordingly, if necessary. In 2015, ARB staff 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 were readily available to purchase from the three school bus vendors in California and adjusted the NO<sub>x</sub> emission criterion. The maximum emission criteria for contracts executed through calendar year 2015 is 0.20 g/bhp-hr NO<sub>x</sub> and 0.01 g/bhp-hr PM. (See Mail-Out #MSC 15-01). ARB staff has determined that no change will be made to these emission criteria for the 2016 model year.

Staff will no longer review the emission criteria requirement annually as previously required by the 2008 LESBP Guidelines, but will only issue a new Mail-Out if the replacement school bus emission criteria changes. Until then, the emission criteria for replacement school buses remains at 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

All Interested Parties

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If you have questions regarding this Mail-Out, please contact Lisa Jennings, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 322-6913 or via email at [lisa.jennings@arb.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.jennings@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Erik White, Chief  
Mobile Source Control Division

cc: Lisa Jennings  
Air Pollution Specialist  
Mobile Source Control Division