

FAQ's concerning the Border-Inspection-Program

Q: What is the purpose of the new AB 1009 regulations?

A: These new regulations are designed to ensure that heavy-duty commercial vehicles operating on California roads are equipped with engines that meet U.S. emission standards.

Q: Does my truck engine need an emission control label?

A: Yes, every truck operating in California needs a clear and readable engine emission control label (ECL).

Q: Who inspects my emission control label?

A: The California Air Resources Board has been given the authority through the state legislature to inspect all heavy-duty commercial vehicles for the engine certification status via the emission control label.

However, truck owners and/or maintenance personnel should inspect their trucks for the presence of a clear and readable engine emission control label as a precaution to being stopped for inspection.

Q: Will I be fined if the ECL is missing or if it is not readable?

A: Yes, a citation will be issued which carries an \$800 civil penalty. The \$800 civil penalty is really two penalties; one for the missing ECL (\$300) and the second for operating a non-compliant engine (\$500). At the time of inspection engines that are missing their ECL will be assumed to be non-U.S. compliant engines.

However for the first year only, the full \$800 penalty can be waived within 45-days of issuance of the citation if evidence is provided to the ARB showing that the engine has been re-labeled and that the engine is compliant with U.S. standards.

Q: Who may replace my engine label?

A: Only authorized dealers can replace an engine label. The identity and emission characteristics of your truck must be verified through an authorized dealer to ensure that the label information matches the engine hardware.

Q: Do I still need to do a smoke emission test if requested?

A: Yes, the regulation is an addition to the existing smoke regulation therefore the smoke emission test is still required.

Q: Can I still operate in California if my truck engine is not certified to meet U. S. standards?

A: No. Trucks found operating in California equipped with engines that don't meet U.S. standards will be issued a \$500 penalty that cannot be waived.

Q: What do the new requirements mean to the trucking industry?

A: There are two issues that truck operators need to be concerned with – operation of trucks equipped with engines that do not meet U.S. standards and engines that are missing or have obscured emission control labels. Recent surveys indicate that about 1 percent of the trucks operating on California's roads have non-compliant engines while 30 percent of the trucks are missing their emission control labels. Both of these conditions can result in significant fines to the truck owner.

Q: Can trucks with non-compliant engines and missing engine labels avoid being cited if they stay within the 20-mile commercial zone?

A: No. Trucks that don't meet U.S. standards and/or have a missing emission control label will be subject to inspection and citation throughout the state, including the 20-mile commercial zone.

Q: What vehicles are subject to these new requirements?

A: All **heavy-duty** commercial vehicles that are **diesel powered** and have gross vehicle weight ratings (**GVWR**) **greater than 10,000 pounds**.

Q: Who may I contact for questions regarding ARB's border inspection program?

A: Contact Don Chernich at (916) 322-7620.