

The Periodic Smoke Inspection Program

Background

The Periodic Smoke Inspection Program was adopted into state law in 1990 to control excessive smoke emissions and tampering in all California-based on-road diesel trucks and buses. With enforcement focused more heavily on the trucking industry, the PSIP was enacted to promote self-inspection of on-road diesel vehicles. While the state allows "self-inspection", there are specific standards that must be met that would likely make it more cost effective for small fleet owners to take the vehicles to a [facility](#) (PDF) that offers the PSIP test instead of conducting a "self-inspection."

Owners of on-road diesel vehicles are not required to inspect vehicles that are powered by diesel engines until their fourth model year. For example, 2012 model-year engines must have their first test completed by Jan. 1, 2016. All testing must conform to the Society of Automotive Engineers J1667 snap-acceleration test procedure and all testing must be performed using an SAE J1667 smoke meter.

In October 2010, a number of changes were made that essentially break the PSIP into four different ways to regulate your vehicles depending on the number, age, location and gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of your diesel vehicle/s. You only need to comply with the one option that applies to your situation:

1. If you **own one** or more 1998 and newer diesel powered on-road vehicles registered in a [biennial \(enhanced\) smog check area](#) of the state with a GVWR of 6,001 to 14,000 pounds, you are NOT subject to the requirements of the PSIP. You ARE subject instead to biennial smog check inspections. You will receive the notification of your smog check requirement through the DMV registration process as you do with your passenger cars. **The smog check requirement applies to every diesel vehicle of this size and age while all the other PSIP requirements apply only if you own two or more vehicles that are NOT exclusively for personal use.**
2. If you own **two or more** 1998 and newer diesel powered on-road vehicles registered in a [change of ownership area](#) of the state with a GVWR of 6,001 to 14,000 pounds, you are **NOT** subject to biennial smog check inspections but you **ARE** required to have a passing a biennial PSIP inspection. Vehicles with a VIN ending in an odd number will be PSIP tested during years ending with an odd number and vehicles with VINs ending with an even number will be PSIP tested during years ending with an even number.
3. If you own **two or more** 1997 model year or earlier diesel powered on-road vehicles with a GVWR over 6,001 pounds you are still subject to the **ANNUAL** PSIP inspection and record keeping requirement regardless of where you live. Diesel and bus fleet owners must conduct annual inspections, repair vehicles with excessive smoke emissions and maintain two years of

inspection/repair/retest records. Those records could be requested for review during random audits conducted by a representative of the California Air Resources Board.

4. If you own **two or more** diesel powered on-road vehicles with a GVWR greater than 14,001 pounds you are still subject to the ANNUAL PSIP inspection and record keeping **regardless of the model year or where you live**. Diesel and bus fleet owners must conduct annual inspections, repair vehicles with excessive smoke emissions and maintain two years of inspection/repair/retest records. Those records could be requested for review during random audits conducted by a representative of the California Air Resources Board.

Emission Control Labels Required

All of these diesel truck engines need to be equipped with an "Emission Control Label" that verifies that the engine meets California emission standards. These labels are put on the engines when they are manufactured. If the label is missing or not readable, regulators may impose an additional penalty. An authorized dealer should be able to help replace an engine label if one is needed.

Who is exempt from PSIP?

If you have only own **one** on-road diesel vehicle weighing over 6,001 GVWR then you are exempt from the annual **PSIP** regardless of your model year or where the vehicle is garaged (where you live). **PSIP** is required when you own two more on-road diesel vehicles over 6,001 GVWR that are used for non-personal uses.

Example: if you had one on-road diesel vehicle that weighed 7,000 GVWR and you used exclusively for personal use and one on-road diesel vehicle that weighed 26,500 GVWR that is used on the farming operation then neither of these vehicles would need a PSIP. But if you have two diesel vehicles over 6,001 GVWR that are used at any time for non-personal, commercial purposes (i.e. your farming operation) then both vehicles would need an annual PSIP.

Smog Check and PSIP are different programs

Smog check will still be required of **every** on-road diesel vehicle from 6,001 to 14,000 GVWR that are 1998 or newer after their fourth model year regardless of use that is garaged in a nonattainment area. For example, a 2012 model year would have to be smog checked in 2016. You will be notified through your registration if and when you need to obtain a smog check.

More Information

If you have any questions regarding program regulations, please contact Mr. Ramon Cabrera at

(626) 450-6177. If you have any questions regarding enforcement, please contact Ms. Andrea Juarez at (626) 450-6158. If you have additional questions, please contact ARB's Public Information Office at 1-800-ENDSMOG.