

Changes to Engine or Fuel Type/Motive Power

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Effective: Immediately

New Information

Customers requesting a motive power (MP) change **must** be referred to the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) Referee Center when the new MP is not the same as originally equipped, as indicated by the vehicle identification number (VIN) decoding program.

The BAR Referee Center will inspect the vehicle to verify and/or approve the new MP change. BAR will issue a smog exemption on the vehicle record if the MP exempts the vehicle from smog certification.

Exceptions to BAR Referral

Do not refer the vehicle to BAR if:

- The MP change indicated is the same MP as originally equipped as indicated by a VIN decode. Correct the MP to what the VIN decode indicates.
- Keying type transaction code (TTC) A00, and the vehicle was converted to an alternate fuel type prior to the sale. Change the MP to what is recorded on the Report of Sale.

Procedures

Refer inquiries regarding engine changes or fuel type/MP changes to:

BAR	1-800-952-5210
Bar Referee Center	1-800-622-7733
BAR Internet website	www.smogcheck.gov

Refer customers to contact the Air Resources Board (ARB) at 1-800-242-4450 **prior** to making any alterations to the emission control system configurations.

For customers who already made an engine change, including those to a different fuel type/MP (**EXAMPLE:** gas to electric), the vehicle **must** be referred to the BAR Referee Center. BAR will notify DMV of any permanent smog exemptions after inspecting the vehicle.

Background

An increase in the number of vehicles with incorrect MP Codes has been identified in the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) vehicle registration (VR) database. The MP on some vehicles that were originally equipped with gasoline engines were erroneously being changed to diesel MP before being referred to a BAR Referee Center for verification that the engine is compliant with emission requirements. Referring vehicles to a BAR Referee Center will ensure the MP is correct and prevent vehicles from being erroneously exempted from smog certification.

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online at **www.dmv.ca.gov** under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated Email Alert System in October 2018.

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References

California Health and Safety Code §43104

California Vehicle Code §27156(b)

VIN 2010-06 Changing the Engine/Fuel Type/Emission System

VIN 2017-11 Vehicle Data Change Confirmation for REG 397s

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo.