

Changes To Engine or Fuel Type/Motive Power

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Implementation Date: Immediately

New Information

This memo supersedes the VIN 2018-18 Changes to Engine or Fuel Type/Motive Power memo, because additional exceptions to the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) Referral were added. Customers requesting an engine or fuel type/motive power (MP) change must be referred to the 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 notify the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) of any permanent smog exemptions after inspecting the vehicle.

Exceptions to BAR Referral

Do **not** refer the vehicle to BAR if:

- An 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.
- A vehicle was converted to an alternate fuel type prior to the sale. Change the MP to what is recorded on the Report of Sale.
- A vehicle has a gross vehicle weight (GVW) over 14,000 pounds and originally had a MP of diesel (D).
- A vehicle MP change is from flex fuel (F) to gasoline (G).
- The VIN decode shows vehicle MP “F” but the vehicle emission label displays “G.”

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 website | smogcheck.gov |

Refer customers to contact the California Air Resources Board (CARB) 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 (for 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.

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Background

An increase in the number of vehicles with incorrect MPs has been identified in the DMV vehicle registration (VR) database. The MP on some vehicles originally equipped with gasoline engines were erroneously 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.

References

California Health & Safety Code §43104

California Vehicle Code §27156(b)

Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual, Chapter 22

VIN 2018-18 Changes To Engine or Fuel Type/Motive Power

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

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

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online at **dmv.ca.gov** under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated Email Alert System in June 2019.

Contact

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