

Occupational Licensing Industry News

OLIN 2023–12

Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention

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New Information

Effective January 1, 2024, the following catalytic converter law changes will occur:

- The definition of an *automobile dismantler* is expanded to include individuals possessing two or more unregistered motor vehicles no longer intended for highway use or six or more used catalytic converters that have been cut from a motor vehicle using a sharp implement. A first violation of *Vehicle Code* §24020 is punishable as an infraction and subsequent violations as a misdemeanor.
- Any person, except as exempted, is prohibited from removing, altering, or obfuscating the vehicle identification number (VIN) engraved, etched, or otherwise marked on a catalytic converter, or from knowingly possessing three or more catalytic converters that have been so altered. A violation of these provisions is punishable as a misdemeanor.
- A dealer or a lessor-retailer is prohibited from selling a new or used vehicle equipped with a catalytic converter unless the converter has been permanently marked with the VIN of the vehicle to which it is attached. A violation of this provision is punishable as an infraction. This violation does **not** apply to any of the following:
 1. A collector motor vehicle.
 2. A vehicle sold by a licensed automobile dismantler.
 3. A vehicle sold by or through a salvage pool, salvage disposal auction, or wholesale motor vehicle auction.
 4. A vehicle sale in which the buyer declines the seller's offer to permanently mark the catalytic converter.
 5. A motorcycle.
- Until January 1, 2025, a vehicle purchased from a dealer licensed in California who is also licensed in another state and does not have a warranty servicing facility in California.

Background

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is notifying the automotive industry of new laws taking effect on January 1, 2024.

References

Vehicle Code §24020
Government Code §17556
California Constitution, Article XIII B, §6
Senate Bill 55 (Umberg, Ch. 858, Stats. 2023)
Assembly Bill 641 (Fong, Ch. 537, Stats. 2023)
Assembly Bill 1519 (Bains, Ch. 847, Stats. 2023)

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available at **dmv.ca.gov** under Vehicle Industry Services, was made via the California DMV Automated Email Alert System in December 2023 to the following:

- Vehicle Dealers
- Vehicle Dismantlers
- Vehicle Lessor/Retailers
- Vehicle Manufacturers
- Vehicle Distributors
- Vehicle Recyclers
- Vehicle Remanufacturers
- Vehicle Transporters
- Registration Services

Contact

Call (916) 229-3126 and say “industry memo” for questions regarding this memo.