

Vermont Air Pollution Control Division: Fact Sheet

What New Vehicle Dealers Need to Know About the Vermont Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Program

- All new motor vehicles up to 14,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) must be California certified in order to be sold and registered in the state of Vermont. As defined in the regulation, a new vehicle is one with 7,500 miles or less on the odometer.
- New vehicles legal for sale in Vermont may also be certified to what are known as “50-state” standards. This means that a vehicle meets both California and U.S. EPA (federal) emissions standards.
- Vehicle manufacturers have the responsibility to deliver compliant vehicles to their dealers in Vermont. Dealers must ensure that they are selling only compliant vehicles to their customers.
- There are two ways to verify that a new vehicle is California or 50-state certified:
 - Check the Vehicle Emission Control Information (VECI) label under the hood.
 - Read the language on the Manufacturer’s Certificate of Origin (MCO) which will include a statement describing the emissions certification of the vehicle.

If the statement on the underhood label and the MCO includes language stating that the vehicle meets California or both California and U.S. EPA (federal) emissions standards, the vehicle is legal for sale in Vermont.

- Vermont is one of more than a dozen states (including all New England states except NH) that have LEV programs and require the sale of only California or 50-state certified vehicles.
- New motor vehicles not certified as California or 50-state vehicles cannot be registered in the state of Vermont. This is particularly important for Vermont dealerships that may trade vehicles with dealerships in a non-LEV state, as well as for dealerships outside of Vermont where a vehicle may be purchased by a Vermont resident.
- Why adopt a LEV program? Motor vehicles are the largest source of toxic and carcinogenic air pollutants, and they represent the greatest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont. Vehicles certified to California emissions standards are the cleanest vehicles the manufacturers make. Overall, they emit less carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and oxides of nitrogen. In addition to these important pollution preventing aspects, California certified vehicles also undergo more extensive testing than federally certified vehicles. California certified vehicles have more comprehensive warranty coverage and greater emissions system longevity requirements. These less polluting vehicles help to reduce the health and environmental threats of air pollution from motor vehicles.



To learn more about the LEV Program contact Vermont’s Air Pollution Control Division toll free at: (888) 520-4879. You may also wish to explore our website at: www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/air