

Chapter 173-423 WAC (Low Emission Vehicles)

This document gives notice that Washington has adopted revised rules to update its clean car standards (Chapter 173-423 WAC, Low Emission Vehicles).

There are two types of motor vehicle emission standards: federal standards and the usually stricter California clean car standards. The California clean car standards significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution from cars and trucks. The federal Clean Air Act allows states to choose between adopting California clean car standards and using the federal standards. Washington has adopted California's clean car standards. Washington law requires 2009 and newer vehicles to meet these low emission standards.

What is Chapter 173-423 WAC?

Chapter 173-423 WAC requires that, starting with 2009 models, new vehicles must meet strict clean air standards to be registered, leased, rented, licensed, or sold for use in Washington. This includes passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles (SUVs and passenger vans). New vehicles that do not meet clean car standards cannot be registered, licensed, rented, or sold for use in Washington.

Summary of the rule changes adopted on November 28, 2012

The rule changes consist of updates to maintain consistency with the California motor vehicle emissions standards and compliance with federal law, including:

- Motor vehicle emission standards for criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Vehicle labeling requirements;
- An option for manufacturers to use federal motor vehicle greenhouse gas standards to show compliance with California's greenhouse gas limits ("Harmonization Provision");

WHY IT MATTERS

Motor vehicles cause most of the air pollution in Washington. Air pollution causes health problems and contributes to climate change.

"Clean car" standards apply to passenger cars, light-duty trucks and medium-duty passenger vehicles beginning with 2009 models.

Effective date

The rule updates are effective December 29, 2012.

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Special accommodations:

If you need this document in format for the visually impaired, call the Air Quality Program at 360-407-6830.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Rule Adoption Notice

- An option for manufacturers to show how they meet greenhouse gas limits across multiple states in lieu of state-by-state compliance (“Compliance Pooling”);
- On-board diagnostic system requirements;
- Clarification of the emergency vehicle exemption;
- Repeal of reporting requirements for emission-related equipment and required corrective action (Article 5) repealed by California in 2008;
- Other changes as needed to maintain consistency with the California motor vehicle emission standards; and
- Other minor technical and administrative changes to help users comply with the rule.

Response to Comments

Ecology’s response to comments received during the public comment period is now available. Download a copy at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173423/1101.html>.

Whom does this rule affect?

Automobile manufacturers, dealers, owners, and repair facilities may be affected by the clean car program.

More information

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173423/1101.html>

To get updates on Ecology’s rule-making activities, sign-up for the WACTrack e-mail list at www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html.

Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For more information about appealing this rule adoption, please contact Bari Schreiner, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 407-6998 or bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov.

