

VCERTT FACT SHEET

CATALYTIC CONVERTER REPLACEMENT AND WARRANTY INFORMATION

As OBDII vehicles age and DTCs for catalytic converter efficiency (e.g., PO420-P0439) become more common, a quick review of the regulations covering converter replacement may be helpful.

If the vehicle is under its original warranty, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) converters are the only legal replacements. What is the original warranty period for converters? Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating up to 8500 lbs. have an original converter warranty of at least 8 years/80,000 miles. Some California-certified vehicles that meet the "PZEV" designation have an emission control system warranty (which applies to all emission control devices including the catalytic converter) of 15 years/150,000 miles. Some manufacturers may have special additional warranty programs – check with the dealer, or advise your customer to do so. ***All this may sound complicated, but the important point to remember is that original converter warranties are at least 8 years/80,000 miles!***

If the original converter is no longer under warranty, new aftermarket as well as tested and certified used (also known as "remanufactured") converters are available – the supplier must provide appropriate documentation that the converter is tested and certified. ***It is illegal to install a used converter (from a junk yard, parts car or anywhere else) unless it has been tested and certified!***

New aftermarket converters that are approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) are required to have a minimum 5 year/50,000 mile warranty for converter performance (which in Vermont means passing the OBD II check), and a minimum 5 year/50,000 mile defect warranty for the physical integrity of the external shell and connecting pipes or flanges. Information on OBDII CARB approved converters can be found at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aftermktcat/exemptcat09.pdf>

New converters that are not CARB approved must have a 25,000 mile warranty for converter performance, as well as the minimum 5 year/50,000 mile defect warranty for the physical integrity of the external shell and connecting pipes or flanges.

Tested and certified used converters are not required to have any warranty.

Repair facilities are required to maintain invoices for converter replacements for 6 months, and to keep replaced and appropriately tagged converters for possible EPA inspection for 15 days.

See Also: VCERTT Catalytic Converter Replacement Options Flowchart