

VERMONT'S LEV PROGRAM



LOWER EMISSIONS. CLEANER AIR.

Factsheet

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What is the Vermont LEV Program?

The Vermont Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Program requires that new vehicles sold in the state meet the same emissions requirements as new vehicles sold in California. The program, including its Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) requirements, is a key strategy in climate change mitigation, and is crucial to Vermont's efforts to remain in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The program includes new vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) up to 14,000 pounds. A new vehicle is defined as one having 7,500 miles or less on its odometer, regardless of the number of prior registrations.

Vermont first exercised its authority under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act to adopt California's LEV standards for new passenger cars and light-duty trucks sold in Vermont in 1996. Since then, Vermont has adopted California's LEV standards for medium-duty vehicles, California's ZEV requirements, and California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards.

Vermont works closely with and coordinates implementation of the standards with numerous other northeastern states that have also elected to adopt California standards as part of a regional effort to reduce air pollution and help mitigate climate change. This regional effort brings a significant number of vehicles meeting the more stringent emissions levels to the sales market across the entire northeast.

Motor vehicles now travel more than 7 billion miles annually in Vermont.

Why does Vermont have a LEV Program?

Motor vehicles are the largest source of toxic and smog-forming air pollutants in Vermont and across much of North America. Over the last 30 years, the number of motor vehicles on Vermont's roads has increased by nearly 60% and motor vehicles now travel more than 7 billion miles annually in Vermont. By ensuring new motor vehicles registered in Vermont are the cleanest vehicles the manufacturers can supply, Vermonters will derive significant air quality benefits.

How is a LEV different from other vehicles?

Motor vehicles certified to California emissions standards meet more stringent emissions requirements for carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and oxides of nitrogen, than those required by federal law. These vehicles also undergo more extensive testing and quality control than vehicles certified to federal emissions standards. The benefits of such a comprehensive certification process result in better and more comprehensive emissions warranty coverage, and greater durability and emissions system life expectancy.

Under the California provisions, all emissions related parts are covered for 3 years or 50,000 miles*, and a vehicle-specific list of more expensive emissions related parts is covered for 7 years or 70,000 miles*. In addition, the 8 year or 80,000 mile* coverage for the catalytic converter and engine control unit required by Federal law applies. Also, certain models have 15 year or 150,000 mile* emissions warranties covering essentially any component that causes the Check Engine Light to illuminate.

*whichever comes first.

How do I know if my vehicle is a LEV?

The law requires that a Vehicle Emission Control Information label be placed under the hood stating that the vehicle conforms to California emissions control regulations. Such labels may also include text indicating that the vehicle complies with the regulations of other states which have adopted California's LEV program, or that in addition to California regulations, the vehicle also complies with U.S. EPA regulations. In such instances where a vehicle meets both California and U.S. EPA emissions requirements, the vehicle is commonly referred to as a "50-state" vehicle.



With Vermont's LEV Program, We All Breathe a Little Easier!

Diseases aggravated by air pollution include chronic sinusitis, bronchitis, asthma, and allergies. Studies show that air pollution poses significant risk of pulmonary problems in developing fetuses, young children, and older individuals, and damages the immune system in healthy adults.

Automobiles are the biggest source of air pollution in Vermont.

Section 177 States

States besides California are not permitted to develop their own emissions standards; however, Section 177 of the Clean Air Act authorizes other States to choose to adopt California's standards, which exceed federal requirements. States that have adopted California's standards are known as "Section 177 States."

For More Info:

Visit the Vermont Air Quality & Climate Division website:

<http://dec.vermont.gov/air-quality/mobile-sources/lev>



Does Vermont's LEV Program affect where I can buy and register a new vehicle?

Vermonters who purchase new vehicles from dealerships within Vermont or other Section 177 States, such as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island, should not encounter anything new or different about the vehicle purchasing and registration process. By law, dealerships in Section 177 States in effect are required to sell only California certified vehicles. Dealerships bordering these states may also sell California certified vehicles, but are not required to do so. For Vermonters who purchase new vehicles from dealerships outside of Section 177 States, it is important to ask for the appropriate documentation stating that the vehicle is California or 50-state certified.

New, non-California certified vehicles may not be registered in Vermont.

What are health and environmental effects of motor vehicle pollution?

- Because motor vehicles are so common and so widely used, humans are continuously exposed to the air pollution they create.
- Toxic and carcinogenic air pollutants from motor vehicles are of concern because they are known or suspected of causing cancer in humans, and pose a threat even at very low levels.
- Hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from motor vehicles form smog (ground-level ozone), which damages lung tissue and aggravates respiratory disease.
- Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable to smog. According to the American Lung Association of Vermont, nearly 200,000 children and elderly Vermonters are frequently exposed to unhealthy levels of smog.
- Smog from motor vehicles inhibits plant growth and can cause widespread damage to crops and forests.
- Air pollution from motor vehicles contributes to the formation of acid rain and climate change, and contributes to water pollution via atmospheric deposition to water bodies.