

# WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT NEW CARB VEHICLE EMISSION RULES

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Whether you own, lease, or operate commercial vehicles in California, understanding the California Air Resources Board (CARB) vehicle emission requirements is essential for your business.

This article provides an overview of the new CARB requirements for commercial vehicles, important compliance dates, and why you should act soon to ensure your fleet's compliance.

## Understanding the New CARB Vehicle Emission Rules

CARB is an agency that governs emissions, including transportation. In 2020, CARB announced a series of new rules and programs focused primarily on transitioning commercial fleets toward Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs). If you own, operate, or manage commercial vehicles, it's important to learn about the new regulations and understand your responsibilities under these new rules.

The new rules address varying vehicle specifications and/or operating requirements that apply to different vehicle and fleet types, and center on four key changes from prior CARB vehicle emission rules:

1. They apply to all vehicles operating in the state of California, regardless of domicile. Prior programs required out-of-state units to be compliant, but only domiciled units required reporting.
2. The rules focus less on vehicle specifications and more on how you manage and operate your fleet. You still need to verify a vehicle's specifications are California approved, but now you also have to confirm the vehicle type meets additional requirements based on its intended use (i.e., drayage and TRU) and your broader fleet composition.
3. The new regulations phase out traditional internal combustion engine vehicles and mandate transition toward ZEVs, such as battery-electric and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles.
4. They will be enforced using a wide range of methods, including controls at licensing and registration points, through roadside cameras and checkpoints, during CARB inspections, and at end destinations (i.e., ports).

The new CARB vehicle-emission rules have many requirements that can affect your business in different ways. It is imperative you:

- Are aware of each rule and the areas of your business they may affect
- Understand and plan for your compliance requirements, including vehicle registration, testing, reporting, and replacement deadlines
- Develop a compliance strategy specific to your fleet by leaning on the expertise of an industry-leading third-party provider like Ryder



**THIS TABLE SUMMARIZES THE NEW CARB RULES TO HELP YOU GET STARTED:**

AGENCY	RULE	STATUS	SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS	CUSTOMER COMPLIANCE CONSIDERATIONS
CARB	<u>Heavy-Duty Engine &amp; Vehicle Omnibus</u>	Effective Dec 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phases in progressively lower standards for vehicle emissions including NOx in MY2024 &amp; MY2027 (under review)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) action</li> <li>Limited Engine/New Unit Slot availability. Consider used units amongst other select options</li> </ul>
CARB	<u>ACT</u>	Effective Mar 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OEM mandate to sell minimum ZEV starting with MY2024</li> <li>MOU, 17 states plus Washington, D.C. &amp; Quebec</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OEM action</li> <li>Work with internal teams, carriers &amp; OEMs to monitor ACT adoption nationwide &amp; submit Large Entity Reports for fleet, as required</li> </ul>
CARB	<u>ACF</u>	Effective Oct. 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fleet owner (\$50M+ annual revenue or 50+trucks) mandate to buy ZEV toward 100% ZEV fleet by 2042</li> <li>All new drayage units must be ZEV starting 1/1/24</li> <li>Fleet Operator to select either: (1) Model Year or (2) Milestone compliance pathway by January 1, 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct fleet analysis across full California operating fleet where customer is "fleet operator" to define minimum ZEV thresholds and select preferred compliance schedule</li> <li>When ACF database becomes available (under development), register CA operating fleet.</li> </ul>
CARB	<u>TRU Amendments</u>	Effective Oct 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manufacturer mandate to sell only ZE TRU after 12/31/23</li> <li>Fleet owner mandate to buy ZE TRU from 2023-2029 at 15% of fleet per year</li> <li>Trailer MY2023+ must have ultra-low emissions or be retired after 7 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct analysis of all TRUs that customer operates in California to determine how many ZE TRUs are required to meet 2024 15% transition threshold</li> <li>Work with carriers &amp; OEMs to identify ZE options to meet threshold or where technology is not available, apply for "technology not available" compliance extension due 12/31/23</li> </ul>
CARB	<u>Clean Truck Check (formerly, Heavy - Duty Inspection &amp; Maintenance)</u>	Adopted Dec 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required registration, emission testing &amp; reporting 2-4x/year for vehicles operating in California</li> <li>CARB enforcement through roadside cameras, random</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For customer operated &amp; leased vehicles, register CA operating fleet in new CTC database (opened Oct. 1, 2023)</li> <li>Identify a certified test center (i.e., Ryder shops) for emissions testing of all California operated vehicles</li> <li>Develop compliance reporting plan</li> </ul>



## Heavy-Duty Omnibus Regulation

Starting in 2024, the CARB regulation will cut engine NOx emissions to about 75% below current standards, and 90% below current standards in 2027 (under review). And, while the EPA is also mandating lower NOx engines for the rest of the country beginning in 2024, CARB's requirements are more stringent. This will impact the types and availability of engines for most asset classes.

For companies looking to buy or lease new vehicles in California, these CARB standards go into effect for all new non-gasoline vehicles engine Model Year (MY) 2024 and later.

Several important aspects to know about engine options and regulation requirements are:

- The Heavy-Duty Omnibus Regulation applies to all new non-gasoline (diesel, natural gas) internal combustion equipment purchases in California above 14,000 GVWR, regardless of company size or revenue.
- OEMs have announced minimal production of diesel engines that meet the new 2024 CARB standards, resulting in dramatically fewer slots. Potential alternative options for these engines will be octane (gas), ZEVs, and redeployment of existing equipment.
- Engine production and availability are limited and uncertain across multiple engine OEMs.
- 2023 production slots with 2023 engine technology and / or Used Vehicles sold in or into the State, with 2023 or older engines, are not affected as this regulation applies to 2024 and newer engine model years.

## Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT)

The Advanced Clean Trucks regulations mandate minimum ZEV sales in California for OEMs, starting in MY2024 and resulting in 100% ZEV sales in 2035. Business entities that meet select criteria must submit a one-time large entity report (LER) detailing information about their operations (i.e., number of vehicles in their fleets including vehicle type, make, model, and engine type). In California, LERs were due April 2021. As of December 2023, seven other states have adopted the ACT rule (Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont and Washington) and also require state-specific LERs.

## Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF)

CARB has passed new zero emission vehicle mandates for select fleets, including drayage and "high priority" fleets.

The ACF rule also requires transition to ZEV for "high priority" fleets, which are defined as fleets with 50 or more vehicles operating in California, or companies that generate more than \$50 million in annual revenue and at least one vehicle operating in California. Fleets that meet either of these criteria can transition to ZEV under two compliance schedules. The first (default) option is called the Model Year schedule and requires all new vehicles after January 1, 2024, to be ZEV. This may be a good option for fleets that do not see wide variability and are trying to maximize the useful life of their existing ICE units. The second option is called the Milestone Schedule and allows fleets that opt-in to phase-in ZEV in from 2025 through 2042 as a percentage of their overall fleet per the table below.

The Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) requirements for drayage apply to vehicles that haul cargo containers picked up from or dropped off at a marine port or rail yard. All drayage units (ZEV and ICE) operating in California must be registered in CARB's drayage portal, expected to launch the end of 2023. Starting January 1, 2024, any new units registered for drayage use must be ZEV. Existing internal combustion engine (ICE) units registered for drayage by December 31 can get legacy status at no additional cost if they meet specific requirements. To maintain legacy status, these units are required to visit a port or railyard at least once per year, among other limitations.



## Transportation Refrigeration Unit (TRU) Requirements

CARB has also adopted changes to the Transportation Refrigeration Unit Airborne Toxic Control Measure (TRU ATCM) program. This rule imposes requirements that are separate, and in addition to the ACF rule that covers zero emission vehicles.

CARB's amendments to the TRU ATCM Regulation were created to further reduce emissions from diesel-powered TRUs and transition TRU trucks to zero emission. In response, OEMs are implementing a new refrigerant for newly manufactured TRUs with a global warming potential value less than or equal to 2,200. Model year 2023 and newer TRUs meet a more stringent emission standard.

Fleet owners, including fleets operators with leased vehicles, must meet the following requirements by December 31, 2023:

- Transition 15% of the TRU truck fleet per year to zero emission TRUs. The fleet count for compliance includes not only vehicles domiciled in California but also TRUs that travel to California. All TRU trucks must be zero emission by December 31, 2029. For example, a fleet of 100 TRU trucks transitioning from diesel-powered to zero-emission TRUs would convert to at least 15 zero-emission TRUs starting on December 31, 2023, and 15 more units per year. Zero emission TRUs in their fleet would increase until reaching 100% zero emission in 2029.
- Expanded TRU reporting and compliance labels. Each operating fleet must register all TRUs, including trailer TRUs in CARB's ARBER portal. Owners must install new compliance labels to their TRU, which CARB will provide following successful registration.
- NOTE: Fees are currently under an injunction due to legal challenges so I have removed references to these.

## Clean Truck Check (formerly, Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance) Program

Over the next two years, CARB will transition from the current Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection Program (HD VIP) to the Clean Truck Check program. The transition began January 1, 2023, with CARB roadside emissions monitoring devices (REMD). PSIP will continue in 2023 for emission testing; however, vehicles flagged by REMD may require additional testing upon request by CARB.

CARB has launched a new Clean Truck Check database where fleet operators must verify their fleets. This includes vehicles domiciled in California, as well as any diesel engine vehicles greater than 14,000 GVWR that operate in California but are located in another state.

In 2024, new Clean Truck Check emissions reporting will begin, replacing the existing PSIP testing. Emissions reporting starts at a frequency of twice per year and will increase to four times per year in 2027.

## Why Start Compliance Now?

There are several reasons to begin your journey towards compliance with CARB new vehicle emission laws now.

1. Transitioning an entire fleet of vehicles to comply with zero-emission standards takes time. Starting early allows for effective planning, sourcing of vehicles, and infrastructure development.
2. Many governmental and nongovernmental organizations offer incentives, grants, and subsidies to support the adoption of zero-emission vehicles. Starting early may help your company better capitalize on these financial benefits.
3. Non-compliance with CARB regulations could lead to hefty fines and penalties (up to \$10,000 per vehicle per day per rule). Starting early minimizes the risk of noncompliance and its associated costs.

# Navigating CARB Regulations with a Trusted Third-Party Provider

As the deadlines for these new vehicle emission rules approach, commercial vehicle owners and transportation managers are facing the challenge of preparing their fleets to comply with these regulations. Working with a trusted third-party provider like Ryder to understand CARB requirements and spec the right vehicles will help you ensure your operations stay in compliance, while meeting your business needs.

As an established leader in the commercial transportation industry, Ryder possesses in-depth knowledge of these emerging regulations, and the challenges and opportunities they present. Trusting Ryder allows you to leverage a wealth of expertise on compliance considerations, zero-emission vehicle technologies available in the marketplace, and the latest regulatory developments. We are here to help you make informed decisions, avoid potential pitfalls, and evolve your fleet to meet your company's needs.

Transitioning to ZEVs involves more than just procuring new trucks. It requires a comprehensive approach that aligns with a company's operational needs. Ryder specializes in providing customized fleet solutions based on individual company requirements. This includes fleet leasing and dedicated transportation solutions, as well as truck rental with vehicles that comply with new CARB rules. From vehicle selection and financing options to maintenance and charging infrastructure, Ryder tailors a comprehensive plan that addresses CARB regulations while minimizing disruptions to business operations. Ryder closely monitors regulatory changes and our approach to compliance can help you stay ahead of updates and ensure that your fleet meets the latest requirements.

As companies prepare to meet CARB's requirements, partnering with Ryder could be the key to a successful and seamless transition.

*Please note this is not intended to be legal advice. Each fleet operator should seek the advice of its own legal and compliance teams to determine its own obligations under CARB rules. These regulations are fluid and likely to change. Please refer the [California Air Resources Board website](#) for the latest updates.*

