

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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Massachusetts Enacts Strict New Vehicle Emissions Standards

New vehicle standards must cut harmful air pollutants by model year 2009

Secretary of Environmental Affairs, Stephen R. Pritchard today announced the adoption of new motor vehicle emission standards designed to produce cleaner air and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts. The new rules, which adopt the latest California Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) standards, require that new vehicles delivered for sale in Massachusetts meet strict auto emission standards.

The standards took effect on December 30, 2005, and will apply to new vehicles sold in Massachusetts beginning in late 2008 when automakers release the 2009 model year vehicles. As a result of these new standards, reductions of vehicle greenhouse gas emissions of 18% are expected by 2020 and 24% by 2030.

"Motor vehicles are a major source of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in our state and, with these new rules, we are taking a significant step in cleaning our air and improving the quality of life in the Bay State," said Pritchard.

Auto manufacturers will be able to meet the standards with technology that will be widely available as the standards take effect. Once the new standards kick in with model year 2009, they will be phased in gradually until fully implemented with the 2016 model year.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, individual states must adopt either the federal Environmental Protection Agency's national auto emissions standards or the California Low Emissions Vehicle emissions standards. Massachusetts elected to adopt California's standards as they provide additional emissions reduction benefits over and above what the federal program is expected to achieve.

(more)

"The LEV program has been delivering air quality benefits to Massachusetts for over a decade and the program has been a key part of our overall clean air plan," said MassDEP Commissioner Robert W. Gollidge Jr. "With these new standards in place, we are addressing greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles for the first time."

"Since motor vehicles are the fastest-growing source of global warming pollution in Massachusetts, the state's adoption of California's standards for cutting these emissions is one of the most important steps we can take to address the crisis of climate change," said Marc Breslow, Director of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network.

The standards apply to emissions from operation of the vehicle, the air conditioning system, and emissions associated with fuel production. They limit the amount of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and certain air conditioning refrigerants emitted by passenger cars, light-duty trucks and sport utility vehicles sold by auto manufacturers in the state.

"By requiring that new automobiles meet stricter standards, we are first and foremost delivering real air quality improvements close to home for the residents of the Commonwealth, while also helping to reduce the regional and global impact of greenhouse gases and other harmful pollutants," said Pritchard.

"Cleaner cars in Massachusetts is good news for Bay State families," said Jeremy Marin, Associate Regional Representative for the Sierra Club. "These standards will reduce a major source of heat-

trapping global warming pollution in our state, and will benefit consumers with reduced fuel costs at the pump. We applaud the Governor for leading on clean air," said Marin. "Actions like this are important for the health and economic health of the country."

With today's announcement, Massachusetts joins six other northeast states - New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, and New Jersey in adopting the California emissions standards.

More information on the Massachusetts LEV regulation and program can be found on the MassDEP web site at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/laws/regulati.htm#lev>

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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