



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

FACT SHEET ADDENDUM
EPA Policy on Cross-Border Sales of 1997 MY "California"
Vehicles

This addendum announces EPA's Cross-Border Sales (CBS) Policy for the 1997 model year. The CBS policy for the 1993, 1994, and 1995 model years is described in the Fact Sheet: EPA Policy on Cross-Border Sales of "California" Vehicles, revised: 10/17/94 (copy attached). The CBS Policy for the 1996 MY, which is identical to the 1995 MY policy, was announced in a previous addendum.

EPA has recently concluded a substantial review of both federal and California motor vehicle emission requirements for the 1996/7 model year. This review revealed that there are California requirements which are less stringent than comparable federal ones, (e.g. California allows vehicle manufacturers to use phase II reformulated gasoline to certify that light-duty vehicles and trucks meet applicable tailpipe standards, while EPA continues to require the use of Indolene. Vehicle tailpipe emission levels can be significantly lower when a vehicle is fueled with phase II reformulated gasoline, making the California requirement less stringent.)

Because 1997 model year California vehicles do not necessarily meet each and every federal emission requirement (which would be necessary to allow the sale of California vehicles everywhere), the CBS Policy for the 1997 model year is identical to the 1996 model year policy and is as follows:

Manufacturers may introduce into commerce all 1997 model year California light-duty vehicles and light-duty trucks in California, New York and Massachusetts; and California medium-duty vehicles in California. Additionally, EPA will take no action to prevent manufacturers from introducing these light-duty vehicles and light-duty trucks into commerce in states that are contiguous to California, New York or Massachusetts. (For the purpose of the 1997 model year Cross Border Sales Policy, Maine is included with the states contiguous to Massachusetts). EPA will also take no action to prevent manufacturers from introducing into commerce California medium-duty vehicles in states contiguous to only California.

As a result, manufacturers may allow their dealers in California, New York, Massachusetts and their contiguous states (including Maine) to sell any 1997 model year California light-duty vehicles and light-duty trucks, at any time, (on or after the effective date of the certificate of conformity) to purchasers from any state. Manufacturers may also allow their dealers in California and its contiguous states to sell California medium-duty vehicles to purchasers from any state.

The language that appears on 1997 model year certificates of conformity for California vehicles is identical to the 1995 model year language specified in question #4 of the attached Fact Sheet. Additionally, the 1997 model year suggested Vehicle Emission Control Information label language is identical to the 1995 model year language specified in question #5 of the attachment. Because both federal and California emission requirements could possibly change in upcoming model years, EPA will make a decision about the CBS Policy for 1998 and subsequent model years at a later date.

For further information about the 1997 CBS Policy contact Karl Simon of the Vehicle Compliance Programs Group at (202) 233-9299 or (202) 260-3623.