

RCC Environment Working Group: Light-Duty Vehicle Emissions Work Plan

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Description:

This work plan addresses the RCC's initiative to:

“Refine and enhance the existing Air Quality Committee (under the U.S.-Canada Air Quality Agreement) work plan with regard to information sharing, technical work sharing, scientific collaboration and testing related to completed emission regulations for light-duty vehicles, which have been bilaterally coordinated.”

Canada and the U.S. have a long history of collaboration to harmonize national emission standards for new vehicles. Existing Canadian and U.S. regulatory emission standards for new light-duty vehicles are aligned for both smog-forming emissions and greenhouse gas emissions. Under the framework of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement, Environment Canada and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have developed a work plan which forms the basis of on-going efforts for working together to reduce transportation emissions through harmonized national vehicle and engine emission standards and their coordinated implementation. The work plan promotes the sharing of information and discussion of strategies and approaches on emission standards for motor vehicles; optimizing vehicle and engine emissions testing activities, taking advantage of unique testing capabilities, and sharing emissions test data where appropriate to facilitate regulatory administration activities in both countries.

As part of its annual work planning process, Environment Canada and the U.S. EPA identify areas of regulatory collaboration with respect to vehicles and engines taking into account priorities, trends...etc. At the end of each year, the parties report progress on regulatory collaboration to the Canada-U.S. Air Quality Committee. This has been a successful bilateral mechanism to promote harmonized regulations and to realize efficiencies in the implementation and administration of the respective regulatory regimes. Accordingly, this existing bilateral mechanism will continue to be the focal point for identifying and administering regulatory collaboration related to emission standards for light -duty vehicles, with of view of promoting the RCC's objectives.

Environment Canada and the U.S. EPA also meet regularly (i.e., at least annually) with respective domestic associations that represent manufacturers and importers of new light-duty vehicles. These existing forums will continue to provide an opportunity for on-going dialogue on issues of regulatory alignment and potential irritants for industry. In addition, future RCC stakeholder engagement sessions on the work plan may be held to complement these regular stakeholder meetings, as appropriate.

Enhanced collaboration between Canada and the U.S. on vehicle emissions will continue to leverage pre-existing expertise among government regulators, provide regulatory certainty for industry through better synchronized timelines, attain environmental benefits through lower air emissions, and achieve cost savings through reduced fuel consumption. It is recognized that systemic improvements identified and ultimately implemented under this work plan to improve regulatory alignment/synchronization on light-duty vehicle emission regulations may also have the collateral benefit of potential application to other related areas (e.g., heavy-duty vehicle and engine emission regulations).

Timelines:

Deliverable outcome	Action Item 1: Enhanced collaboration with regard to information sharing, technical work sharing, scientific collaboration and testing related to completed emission regulations for light-duty vehicles.	Action Item 2: Improved synchronization in the implementation of emission regulations
Deliverables		
Three to six months	Implement joint initiatives in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a plan to improve compatibility of Canadian GHG emission reporting requirements with those of U.S.; • conduct laboratory correlation testing for light vehicles. 	Explore potential Canadian legislative changes that could facilitate timely alignment with Canada/U.S. regulations. Environment Canada to work with Treasury Board Secretariat to explore opportunities to tailor the Triage and Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement requirements for Canadian regulations that are aimed at aligning with U.S.
Six to 12 months	Implement joint initiatives in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement plan to improve compatibility of Canadian GHG emission reporting requirements with those of U.S.; • share emission test results of respective 2011 compliance verification and in-use testing of light-duty vehicles • conduct laboratory correlation testing for light-duty vehicles Report to the Canada-U.S, Air Quality Committee on regulatory cooperation initiatives completed in 2012 (Nov. 2012 Committee meeting). Convene a meeting of the Task group (e.g. Canada/U.S. Air Quality Committee Working Group) to identify potential regulatory cooperation initiatives for 2013.	On-going work on opportunities to facilitate Canadian regulatory processes for regulations that are aimed at aligning with U.S.
12 to 18 months	Implement joint initiatives in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct laboratory correlation testing for light-duty vehicles 	Support the development of Triage and/or RIAS-related changes to facilitate improved synchronization with U.S. regulations, as warranted.
Beyond 18 months	Implement joint initiatives in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share emission test results of respective 2012 compliance verification and in-use testing of light-duty vehicles 	Complete a progress report on measures to facilitate improved synchronization with U.S. regulations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct laboratory correlation testing for light-duty vehicles <p>Report to the Canada-U.S, Air Quality Committee on regulatory cooperation initiatives completed in 2013 (Nov. 2013 Committee meeting)</p> <p>Convene a meeting of the Task group (e.g. Canada/U.S. Air Quality Committee Working Group) to identify potential regulatory cooperation initiatives for 2014.</p>	
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