

ARB Adopts Comprehensive Enhancements to Its OBD Regulations – On April 25, 2002, ARB adopted changes to its OBD II program designed to update the regulations to account for new emission control technologies and lower emission standards, as well as to increase the amount of data available to repair technicians and I/M inspectors, clarify the existing regulations, and adopt more specific enforcement provisions. Changes to the OBD II program include:

- Catalyst system monitoring for oxides of nitrogen (NOx) in addition to the current requirement to monitor hydrocarbons
- Revisions to the misfire monitoring requirements to clarify when manufacturers are allowed to disable misfire monitoring
- Revisions to the evaporative emission monitoring requirements
- Continuous monitoring for oxygen sensor circuit faults
- Expansion of monitoring requirements to include emission sources such as fuel-fired passenger compartment heaters
- Specific monitoring requirements for Variable Valve Timing (VVT) systems
- New monitoring requirements for diesel vehicles to address emissions resulting from catalyst system malfunctions and PM filter malfunctions
- Allowance for SULEV applications to use a malfunction criterion of 2.5 times, instead of 1.5 times, the applicable FTP standards wherever the latter criterion is required
- New requirements for post-assembly line testing of production vehicles to verify compliance with the regulations

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