SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT

This Substantive Policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated partied or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

Guidance Memorandum - VEIP-2015-001

Subject: Catalytic Converter Inspection for Area B Waivers

To: Gordon-Darby Arizona Testing, Inc. (GDAT) waiver staff
    Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) referee staff
From: Shawn B. Kendall, Manager, Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP)
Effective: July 24, 2014

Procedures and Guidance

When performing a waiver inspection for vehicles in Area B (Tucson Metropolitan Area), the following criteria related to the catalytic converter system will be considered:

1. A certificate of waiver shall not be issued to a vehicle that has a catalytic converter system that is missing or defeated.
2. A certificate of waiver shall not be issued to a vehicle equipped with an On-Board Diagnostic Computer (OBD) with a Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL), “Check Engine” or “Service Engine Soon” light commanded on by the computer and containing diagnostic trouble codes indicating the catalytic converter system is malfunctioning.
3. A certificate of waiver shall not be issued to a vehicle if the repair order or estimate paperwork provided to the waiver technician at the time of waiver inspection shows that a diagnostic determination has been made by the mechanic that the catalytic converter must be replaced.

Background and Rationale

On July 24, 2014, A.R.S. 49-542(R) was expanded to apply to Area B (Tucson Metropolitan Area). The above criteria are the specific conditions that prohibit a certificate of waiver from being issued related to the catalytic converter inspection.
Related Statutes and Rules

A.R.S. 49-542(R):
“The director shall prohibit a certificate of waiver pursuant to subsection of this section for any vehicle which has failed inspection in area A or area B due to the catalytic converter system.”

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Does this apply to Area A (Phoenix Metro area)?* – No. In Area A a quantitative catalyst efficiency test continues to be required until that requirement is eliminated in the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

2. *Is something other than a simple inspection for physical presence required on pre-OBD vehicles in Area B (Tucson Metro area)?* – Yes. Pre-OBD vehicles require a tail-pipe emission test and are subject to limits on emissions in order to receive a waiver, thereby verifying the emissions are low enough to be granted a waiver under federal guidelines. OBD vehicles do not have tail-pipe emission tests and must rely on the sensors built into the catalytic converter system to determine if it is working correctly.

3. *Why would submission of a repair order or estimate indicating the catalytic converter needs to be replace be the basis for a waiver denial?* – The judgment of a professional mechanic indicating he has tested the catalytic converter system and that it is not working will be accepted as evidence that the catalytic converter system has failed inspection.

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July 24, 2014