

Colorado Catalytic Converter Regulations Automobile Dealers

In recent years Colorado has seen counterfeit and extremely low quality, foreign produced aftermarket catalytic converters become a statewide problem. A large proportion of these parts have been found to have little to no effective function. As a result, Colorado citizens have endured monetary losses and worsened air quality.

To help combat this problem, the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) adopted California's aftermarket catalytic converter requirements as specified in [Title 13, California Code of Regulations, Section 2222](#), effective January 1, 2021 for all *spark-ignition vehicles under 14,001 lbs in CO*, even in areas with no emissions testing requirement. Colorado has separate requirements for catalytic converters for diesel fueled vehicles

5 CCR 1001-24 - AQCC Regulation #20, Part C contains the full text of the regulation. You can also find more information at: cdphe.colorado.gov/motor-vehicle-emissions/aftermarket-catalytic-converters

In simple terms Regulation 20 states:

- No one in Colorado may install, sell, or advertise for sale an aftermarket catalytic converter unless the part has a California Air Resources Board (CARB) Executive Order exempting it from the prohibition.
- It is no longer allowed to sell or install a used or remanufactured catalytic converter on any motor vehicle anywhere in Colorado.
- If a vehicle is within the California or Federal Emissions Performance Warranty period¹ the only allowed replacement part is the OEM converter.
- Vehicles that have non-compliant catalytic converters installed after January 1, 2023 may be deemed to have been Tampered under the definitions in CRS 25-7-144 and must be repaired to return them to compliance prior to offering for sale or transferring title.
- Do not purchase or take in trade a vehicle with a tampered emissions control system unless you will return the vehicle to emissions compliance as originally certified prior to offering for retail sale.
 - You must not offer for sale or sell a motor vehicle with a tampered emissions control system. In Colorado the seller is responsible for providing a Certificate of Emissions Compliance.

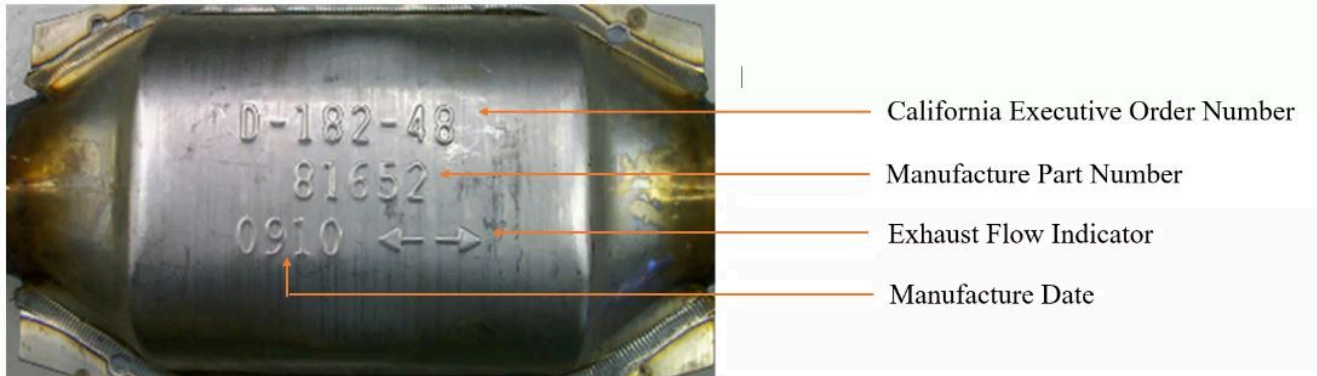
Assistance

A list of compliant catalytic converters is maintained by the California Air Resources Board at <https://ssl.arb.ca.gov/AftermarketParts/catalysts>. Most domestic suppliers of catalytic converters have Colorado compliant parts identified in their catalogs.

A CARB compliant aftermarket catalytic converter can be identified by the required permanent markings on the part itself. The CARB Executive Order number must be shown along with the manufacturer's part number,

¹ Catalytic Converter warranty coverage is between 5 years/50,000 miles and 15 years/150,000 miles. Check the VIN with the dealer for the exact coverage on each vehicle. Failure to do so may result in a violation of the law.

the manufacture date, and the exhaust flow direction. These catalytic converters must be mounted with the identification visible.



If you have questions about the law, or questions about the catalytic converters on a specific vehicle, the Air Pollution Control Division has Technical Centers that can help. You can reach us at (888) 861-2646.

Penalties

While it is our priority to bring non-compliant vehicles back into compliance, please be aware that, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes §25-7-122(1)(b), CDPHE has the authority to assess monetary penalties to any person who violates any requirements of an emissions control regulation of the Air Quality Control Commission. Any person who violates Regulation 20, is subject to a civil penalty of up to forty-seven thousand three hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$47,357) per day for each day of each violation.

In addition to the prohibition of installing non-compliant catalytic converters, vehicles with non-complying catalytic converters installed after January 1, 2021 may be deemed to be in violation of CRS 25-7-144 which states that it is unlawful to sell, lease, or rent or to offer to sell, lease, rent or transfer title to a motor vehicle with an emissions control system that has been tampered with.

Additionally, section 8 of the anti-tampering bill (SB22-179), makes the sale of a vehicle without a properly functioning emissions system an unlawful act under Colorado's franchise law.

CRS 44-20-121 Licenses - Grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation.

CRS 44-20-121(3)(S): Selling to a retail customer a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a properly functioning emission control system, as determined based on an enforcement action taken pursuant to sections 25-7-122 (1)(j) and 25-7-144, *unless the ownership document associated with the motor vehicle is a salvage certificate of title, a non-repairable title, or, if issued by another state, a similar document.*

This violation is punishable by the Dealer Board and subject to a Colorado Consumer Protection Act violation. Notification of violations may be provided to the Colorado Department of Revenue.

