

Title Issuing Agents' Frequently Asked Questions About the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program

Q. Where can I find current PennDOT titling procedures that accommodate the requirements of the PA Clean Vehicles Program?

A. Current PennDOT titling procedures can be found online at www.dmv.state.pa.us/businessPartnerCenter/clean_vehicle.shtml.

PennDOT also describes titling procedures in PennDOT's February 2007 [Driver and Vehicle Services Update](#).

Q. How can I tell if the vehicle for which I am issuing a title is a compliant vehicle?

A. Two mechanisms provide the ultimate assurance a vehicle is CARB certified.

The Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin (MCO) or Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (MSO). For a CARB certified vehicle, this document indicates that the vehicle is certified to or meets emissions standards for either all 50 states or the State of California. This notation is generally near the top of the MCO/MSO and may be in larger, sometimes specially colored print. Where no language exists regarding certification, the vehicle is not CARB certified. If the certification language indicates the vehicle is federally certified or certified to federal standards, the vehicle is not CARB certified.

The Vehicle Emissions Control Information (VECI) sticker mounted in the vehicle's engine compartment has language indicating the vehicle's emissions systems comply with California emissions requirements or requirements for all 50 states. If the languages indicates the vehicle is federally certified or certified to federal standards, the vehicle is not CARB certified.

Q. What are the compliance obligations of a title issuing agent for the PA Clean Vehicles Program?

A. Agents are required to verify that the MCO or MSO includes a proper certification statement. If a certification statement is not included on the MCO or MSO, the application for title must not be submitted for a person seeking title in Pennsylvania unless the vehicle is otherwise exempted. If an application for certificate of title is submitted to PennDOT with an MCO or MSO without the requisite certification, PennDOT will reject the application and return it to the applicant. The application will NOT be returned to the issuing agent.

When titling a new vehicle and an MCO or MSO is not available, such as when a qualified or subject vehicle is resold, [Form MV-9 \(Compliance or Exemption for the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program\)](#) must be used and submitted with the application for certificate of title. The vehicle owner will be asked to check the block in Section C of the MV-9 form self-certifying that they have visually checked the manufacturer's installed label under the hood of the vehicle and that it indicates the vehicle is certified for sale in California or all 50 states.

- Q. An applicant is applying to title a model year 2008 or newer vehicle in Pennsylvania that was previously sold and issued a title from another state. The title was assigned to the new owner. No MCO or MSO is available and the vehicle has more than 7,500 miles on the odometer. Can this vehicle be titled in PA?**
- A. Yes. As the vehicle has more than 7500 miles on the odometer it is not considered new for the purposes of this program and is not subject to the CARB certification requirement. Complete the Form MV-1 and submit to PennDOT with the out-of-state title.
- Q. A Pennsylvania resident is applying to title a model year 2008 or newer vehicle in Pennsylvania that was previously sold and issued a title from another state to the previous owner. The title was assigned to the new owner. No MCO or MSO is available and the vehicle has less than 7,500 miles on the odometer. Can this vehicle be titled in PA?**
- A. As the applicant is a Pennsylvania resident, the vehicle is model year 2008 or newer, and the vehicle has less than 7500 miles on the odometer, the vehicle is subject to the CARB certification requirement. The issuing agent should use [Form MV-9](#) and require the applicant to self-certify the vehicle is CARB certified. Certification can be verified by inspecting the Vehicle Emissions Control Information (VECI) sticker mounted in the engine compartment.
- The VECI sticker has language indicating the vehicle's emissions systems comply with California emissions requirements or requirements for all 50 states. If the language indicates the vehicle is federally certified or certified to federal standards, the vehicle is not CARB certified.
- If the VECI sticker does not indicate CARB certification as described above, the vehicle is not CARB certified and therefore cannot be titled in Pennsylvania, unless the vehicle meets listed exemptions indicated in section D of [Form MV-9](#).
- If the VECI sticker indicates CARB certification as described above, the applicant should complete section C of [Form MV-9](#) (relating to self certification). The issuing agent should then submit to PennDOT the completed forms MV-1, MV-9 and attach the out-of-state issued title.
- Q. What exemptions exist for vehicles that may not be CARB certified?**
- A. [Form MV-9](#) section D lists the most relevant exemptions available to applicants.
- Section 126.413 of the Clean Vehicles Program rules list all [eligible exemptions](#) for qualifying or subject vehicles.
- If the applicant's vehicle meets any of the exemptions indicated on Form MV-9, and is not CARB certified, the issuing agent should submit to PennDOT completed forms MV-1 and MV-9 with either the MCO/MSO or appropriate title documentation.
- Q. What is considered an 'emergency vehicle'?**
- A. The definition of [emergency vehicle](#) is included in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 121, Section 121.1 of the Department's Rules and Regulations.
- Applicants that provide the issuing agent with reasonable assurances that the non-CARB certified vehicle would be used for any of the defined emergency vehicle purposes may exempt the vehicle from the CARB certification requirement. Issuing agents must submit to PennDOT a completed [Form MV-9](#) with the completed Form MV-1 for a title to be

issued. If the Form MV-9 is not completed and submitted with the Form MV-1, the application will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

A 'reasonable assurance' can be, but is not limited to, officially issued identification indicating the applicant's status as emergency personnel or a signed letter from an official of an organization authorized as an emergency response agency or organization, indicating the applicant's emergency personnel status.

Q. What is a "National security or testing exemption" described in [§ 126.413](#) and how are these exempted vehicles titled?

A. The U.S. EPA can exempt certain vehicle engines from federal emissions certification requirements (including California requirements) if the engines or vehicles are necessary for the purpose of research, investigations, studies, demonstrations, or training, or for reasons of national security. In the event an applicant is claiming this exemption, the applicant should provide reasonable proof that the vehicle is subject to this exemption then complete the form MV-9 in conjunction with form MV-1. NOTE: It is likely few of these vehicles will be titled in Pennsylvania, as these vehicles are usually part of U.S. government or military fleets. PennDOT does not process titling of these vehicles for use in Pennsylvania.

Q. A Pennsylvania resident is traveling in another state and is involved in a vehicular accident that renders the car inoperable or beyond reasonable repair, or the Pennsylvania resident's vehicle is stolen in another state. The resident purchases a new vehicle out of state. Upon the resident's return to Pennsylvania, the person applies for a Pennsylvania title. The new vehicle is not CARB certified. Can this vehicle be titled in Pennsylvania?

A. Yes. Pennsylvania resident traveling outside of the Commonwealth, whose vehicle is rendered inoperative and is beyond reasonable repair, or whose vehicle is stolen and is likely non-recoverable, may purchase a non-CARB certified vehicle outside of the Commonwealth and have it titled in Pennsylvania upon the resident's return. The resident should complete [Form MV-9](#) in conjunction with the resident's application for Pennsylvania title. The vehicle identification number (VIN) of the vehicle rendered inoperative or stolen should also be indicated on the form. The title issuing agent should then submit both completed forms MV-1 and MV-9 to PennDOT for title processing.

Q. An applicant has received a non-CARB certified vehicle through an inheritance or by a court decree (for instance, a divorce settlement). Can this vehicle be titled in Pennsylvania?

A. Yes. If the vehicle has less than 7500 miles on the odometer, the issuing agent should process the title transfer as appropriate and attach a completed [Form MV-9](#). If the vehicle has 7,500 miles or more on the odometer, it is not considered a new vehicle and is therefore not subject to the CARB certification requirement; a completed MV-9 form is not required.

Q. An applicant has just moved into Pennsylvania from another state and seeks to transfer his or her current vehicle's out-of-state title and registration. Their vehicle is not CARB certified. Can this vehicle be titled?

A. Yes. If the vehicle was titled and registered while the applicant was a resident of another state and the vehicle has less than 7,500 miles on the odometer, the issuing agent should complete the Form MV-1 as appropriate and attach a completed [Form MV-9](#). If the vehicle has 7,500 miles or more on the odometer, it is not considered a new vehicle

and is therefore not subject to the CARB certification requirement; a completed MV-9 form is not required.