

# Smog Program Changes and New Abatement Fee

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**Effective: January 1, 2019**

## New Information

Legislation effective January 1, 2019, makes the following changes to the smog program and abatement fee:

- Exempts vehicles eight or less model years old in a biennial smog check area from smog certification.
- Requires an annual \$25 smog abatement fee for vehicles that are seven and eight model years old.
- Exempts seven model year old vehicles (2012 model year vehicles) that obtained a smog certificate in 2018, from paying a smog abatement fee.

**NOTE:** The current annual \$20 smog abatement fee for vehicles that are six or less model years old remains in effect.

## Procedures

Refer to the attached chart (Summary of Smog Rule Changes) to determine the smog abatement fee and smog year by the model year of the vehicle. The **system will generate** the smog exemption and appropriate fees based on the vehicle's model year and registration expiration date.

## Registration Renewal

Listed below are answers to sample questions based on vehicle registration renewal transactions.

**1. Q: How do I manually determine which smog abatement fee is due for a particular vehicle?**

**A:** To determine which smog abatement fee is due, subtract seven from the current expiration year to get the oldest qualifying model year for the \$25 smog abatement fee. Subtract five from the current expiration year to get the oldest qualifying model year for the \$20 smog abatement fee.

**EXAMPLE:** 2012 and 2013 model year vehicles will pay the \$25 smog abatement fee, except 2012 model year vehicles that obtained a smog certification in 2018. 2014 through 2019 model year vehicles will pay the \$20 smog abatement fee.

**2. Q: A vehicle that is eight model years old (2012 model year vehicles) with a registration expiration date in 2018, obtains a biennial smog certification. Is the \$25 smog abatement fee due as part of the registration fees in 2019?**

**A:** No, the next smog certification requirement for a 2012 model year vehicle will be in 2020. Therefore, the smog abatement fee is not due in 2019.

**Registration Renewal, *continued***

**3. Q: A vehicle that is eight model years old (2012 model year vehicles) with a registration expiration date in 2018, has a report of deposit of fees (RDF) for smog certification in 2018. If the application is resubmitted in 2019, can the customer pay the \$25 smog abatement fee?**

**A:** No, the smog certification is due because the original registration expiration date is in 2018.

**4. Q: Is the \$25 smog abatement fee due for a vehicle that is six model years old or less, in 2019?**

**A:** No, the \$25 smog abatement fee applies only to seven and eight model year old vehicles due for smog certification renewing in 2019. Vehicles six model years old or less are subject to the \$20 smog abatement fee.

**Transfers**

The **system will generate** the smog exemption and appropriate fees due based on the transfer date. Listed below are answers to sample questions based on the transfer date.

**1. Q: A vehicle that is eight model years old or less is transferred in 2018. All required fees were paid, but the transaction was returned on an RDF for smog. If the application is resubmitted in 2019, can the customer pay the \$25 smog abatement fee in lieu of a smog requirement?**

**A:** No, a smog certification for the transfer is required.

**SMOG EXCEPTION:** A vehicle that is four model years old or less is exempt from a transfer smog and an \$8 fee is due in lieu of the smog certification.

**2. Q: A vehicle that is seven or eight model years old (2012 and 2013 model year vehicles) is transferred in 2019. The annual registration fees and biennial smog certification are due. Is the smog abatement fee due? Is a smog certification required?**

**A:** The \$25 smog abatement fee is due for registration renewal and a smog certification is due for the transfer.

**3. Q: A vehicle that is six model years old or less (2014–2019 model year vehicles) is transferred in 2019. Annual registration fees and biennial smog certification are due. Is the smog abatement fee due? Is a smog certification required?**

**A:** The \$20 smog abatement fee is due for registration renewal and a smog certification is due for the transfer.

**SMOG EXCEPTION:** A vehicle that is four model years old or less is exempt from a transfer smog and an \$8 fee is due in lieu of the smog certification.

**Transfers, *continued***

**4. Q: A vehicle that is eight model years old or less is transferred between a parent and child in 2019. Registration fees are current and not due. Is the smog abatement fee due? Is a smog certification required?**

**A:** No, the smog abatement fee is only due for registration renewal and a smog certification is not required for a family transfer.

**5. Q: A vehicle that is eight model years old or less is transferred in 2019. The vehicle is located in a non-biennial area and the annual registration fees are due. Is the smog abatement fee due? Is a smog certification required?**

**A:** No, the smog abatement fee and smog certificate is not required because it is in a non-biennial area.

**Background**

Currently, vehicles that are six model years older or less, located in a biennial smog check area, are exempt from smog certification and the \$20 annual smog abatement fee is due. The current six model year old or less smog exemption and abatement fee requirements remain in effect. On January 1, 2019, Assembly Bill 1274 (Chapter 633, Statutes 2017) extends the current smog exemption by two years and increases the smog abatement fee to \$25 for seven and eight model year old vehicles.

**Distribution**

Notification that this memo is available online at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated Email Alert System in October 2018.

**References**

*California Health and Safety Code* §§44011, 44060, and 44091.1

*California Vehicle Code* §§4001.1 and 4000.2

**Contact**

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo.

**Attachment**

**SUMMARY OF SMOG RULE CHANGES**

**Assembly Bill (AB) 1274**

**Implementation Effective Date: January 01, 2019**

MODEL YEARS	DESCRIPTION	YEAR FEES DUE								
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
		VEHICLE MODEL YEAR								
6 & LESS	SMOG ABATEMENT FEE (\$20)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
7	SMOG ABATEMENT FEE (\$25)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
8		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020

Notes/Assumptions

Exemptions

- \* 1975 model year and older, gas-powered vehicles
- \* 1997 model year and older, diesel-powered vehicles AB 1274 (Ch. 633, Statutes of 2017)