Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance (HD I/M) Regulation: HD I/M Tester Training and Examination

October 31, 2022

What is a HD I/M tester?

A HD I/M tester is a person who is authorized to perform vehicle compliance testing and submit test results to California Air Resources Board (CARB) in accordance with the requirements of the HD I/M regulation.[1]

How do I become a HD I/M tester?

You must complete CARB's free, online HD I/M Tester Training Course and pass the accompanying exam with a minimum 80 percent score to obtain a HD I/M Tester Identification Number authorizing you to perform vehicle compliance testing. The course instructs people on how to perform the different types of HD I/M compliance tests and provides information on:

- The basic requirements of the HD I/M regulation;
- The use of on-board diagnostics (OBD) data in the HD I/M program and how to perform an OBD compliance test;
- How to perform the SAE J1667 Smoke Opacity compliance test on vehicles without OBD systems; and
- How to perform the new vehicle emissions control equipment inspection, which is also a component of compliance testing on vehicles without OBD systems.

How do I access the HD I/M Tester Training Course?

Please visit CARB's HD I/M webpage at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/heavy-duty-inspection-and-maintenance-program. In the left side bar, click on the HD I/M Tester Training and Exam button to register for and begin the course.

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[1] The final HD I/M regulation is contained in sections 2195 – 2199.1, title 13, California Code of Regulations, and is available here: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2021/hdim2021/hd-imfroatta1.pdf.

Which vehicle compliance tests must be performed by a HD I/M tester?

All HD I/M vehicle compliance testing must be performed by a HD I/M tester, unless the testing is conducted using a CARB-validated telematics device that does not require human intervention to complete the testing and to submit results to CARB.

When does the requirement for HD I/M testers to perform compliance tests take effect?

On January 1, 2023, when the HD I/M regulation becomes effective.

Who can take CARB's free, online HD I/M Tester Training Course?

Any person in or outside California with basic industry knowledge of vehicle emissions control systems and heavy-duty vehicle testing and repair procedures may take the course and test to become HD I/M tester.

Where do HD I/M testers work?

HD I/M testers may be people who want to test their own heavy-duty vehicles, are employed by a fleet and are responsible for testing fleet vehicles, or will offer for-hire services (third-party testers) either as an independent business owner or as an employee of a heavy-duty vehicle service facility.

How long does it take to complete the training course?

It takes about 1 hour and 45 minutes to view the 6 training modules that make up the entire course. The training modules are followed by a 20 question multiple choice exam.

What if I want to watch the training modules but not take the exam or I want to review the modules again after taking the exam?

You are welcome to watch the training modules at any time without taking the exam and for review purposes at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/truckstop/azregs/training.html. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage and look in the "Helpful Videos" section. Just remember that you can only become a HD I/M tester authorized to perform vehicle compliance tests by taking and passing the exam.

Where do I find my HD I/M Tester Identification Number and what does it look like?

It is in the bottom left corner of your Certificate of Completion issued after taking the HD I/M Tester Training and passing the exam.

Your HD I/M Tester Identification Number will have eight characters and start with two capital letters followed by six numerals.

The HD I/M Tester Training system will provide you with an electronic version of your Certificate of Completion for downloading and printing immediately after you pass the exam. Retain this for your records.

Does my HD I/M Tester Identification Number ever expire? How do I renew it?

Your unique HD I/M Tester Identification Number is valid for two years from the date you passed the exam. Your Certificate of Completion includes your Tester ID expiration date. To renew your HD I/M Tester Identification Number, you must retake the HD I/M Tester Training Course and pass the exam again.

Can I share my HD I/M Tester Identification Number with co-workers who also want to perform HD I/M compliance testing?

No. Your Identification Number is unique to you and every tester must take the training and pass the exam to obtain their own Identification Number.

What testing equipment do I need to perform HD I/M compliance tests?

To perform smoke opacity testing, you will need a SAE J1667-compatible smoke meter. A list of manufacturers that sell SAE J1667-compatible smoke meters and their contact information is available from CARB's HD I/M program webpage at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/heavy-duty-inspection-and-maintenance-program.

To perform the Vehicle Emissions Control Equipment Inspection, you will need access to reliable sources of engine and vehicle technical specifications, such as service and repair manuals. The standard form for completing and submitting results to CARB is available at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/heavy-duty-inspection-and-maintenance-program.

To perform OBD compliance tests, a HD I/M tester must use a CARB-validated OBD test device. A list of manufacturers with CARB-validated OBD test devices is available on CARB's website at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/heavy-duty-inspection-and-maintenance-program. CARB's webpage will continually be updated as devices become approved for use in the program.

What if I already have a smoke meter or an OBD scan tool – can I use those?

If you already have a SAE J1667-compatible smoke meter, you may continue to use that for HD I/M compliance testing on vehicles without OBD systems.

While there are existing OBD scan tools already on the market, you can only use one that has been validated by CARB for use in the HD I/M program and is on CARB's list of OBD Test Devices. Attempting to use an OBD test device that is not validated by CARB will result in an unsuccessful test on the vehicle on which it is used.

I have a valid smoke tester certification from the California Council on Diesel Education and Technology (CCDET). Do I still have to take CARB's HD I/M Tester Training Course?

Yes. To perform HD I/M compliance testing starting in January 2023, you must take the HD I/M Tester Training and pass the exam. Smoke tester identification numbers obtained through CCDET for the Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) are not valid for performing vehicle compliance tests within the HD I/M program.

If I have a HD I/M Tester Identification Number, does that also authorize me to perform smoke testing for PSIP compliance?

Yes, with one caveat for third-party testers as described below.

- Individuals performing PSIP testing on their own vehicles or vehicles owned by a business in which they are employed may start using their HD I/M Tester Identification Number right away.
- Third-party testers that perform PSIP testing for-hire must still use a PSIP smoke tester ID through December 31, 2022, issued through a CCDET training class. Starting in January 2023, a HD I/M Tester Identification Number will be sufficient.

How and when will I be able to find HD I/M testers in my area to hire for HD I/M compliance testing for my vehicles?

CARB will post a list of HD I/M testers that offer for-hire testing services and their contact information, including location, on CARB's HD I/M webpage at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/heavy-duty-inspection-and-maintenance-program.

This list will be first available near the end of 2022 and will be updated periodically.

Inclusion on this list is not an endorsement by CARB but merely a courtesy for HD I/M testers and vehicle owners that may need their services.

Why am I not on the public list of HD I/M testers?

If you want to be on the public list of HD I/M testers that offer for-hire testing services, please send an email to hdim@arb.ca.gov with your contact information (name, business name, email, phone number) and a copy of your HD I/M Tester Training Certificate of Completion and request to be added to the list. We will update the list periodically and your contact information will appear on the next update.

My information on the public list of HD I/M testers is incorrect. How do I get it updated?

Please send an email to hdim@arb.ca.gov with the contact information **as it currently appears on the list**, your HD I/M Tester Identification Number, and the information that you are requesting to be corrected. We will update the list periodically and your modified contact information will appear on the next update.

I am on the public HD I/M tester list but want to be removed. What do I do?

Please send an email to hdim@arb.ca.gov with your contact information and your HD I/M Tester Identification Number and request to be removed from the list. We will update the list periodically and your contact information will be removed on the next update.

Where do I get additional information on the HD I/M program?

For more information, go to:
https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/truckstop/hdim/hdim.html or

https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/heavy-duty-inspection-and-maintenance-program.

You may also view CARB's training modules developed for the HD I/M Tester Training Course at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/truckstop/azregs/training.html. Scroll to the Helpful Videos section to view them. These modules provide more in-depth information on the requirements of the HD I/M regulation and testing procedures.

How can I receive updates on HD I/M program activities?

To receive automatic email updates on HD I/M program activities, such as when additional CARB-validated OBD test devices are available for use in the HD I/M program, sign up on the GovDelivery list at California Air Resources Board (govdelivery.com).

Where can I find the text of the final HD I/M regulation?

The HD I/M regulation, referred to as the final regulation order, is in title 13, California Code of Regulations, sections 2195 - 2199.1 and is available here: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2021/hdim2021/hdi-mfroatta-1.pdf

If I have additional questions, how do I contact CARB?

Please email staff at hdim@arb.ca.gov. We generally respond within three to five business days.