Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance (HD I/M) Regulation: On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Testing Devices

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

Only California Air Resources Board (CARB)-validated OBD test devices can be used to perform OBD compliance testing when the HD I/M program begins in January 2023. CARB-validated test devices, including vendor information for purchasing devices, are shown on CARB's HD I/M main program webpage at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/inspection-and-maintenance-program/obd-test-devices.

I already have an OBD scan tool. Can I use that for HD I/M compliance testing?

No, unless it is CARB-validated. 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.

When will more CARB-validated OBD test devices and vendor information be added to the list?

CARB will update the OBD Test Device webpage as device vendors complete CARB's validation process. This validation process is necessary to ensure that OBD test devices collect the data necessary for CARB to determine if a vehicle is HD I/M-compliant, transmit data to CARB in a format specified by CARB regulations, and do not interfere with vehicle operations or harm the engine.

Where can I purchase CARB-validated OBD test devices?

Interested parties must coordinate directly with the device vendor to purchase the necessary equipment. Contact information for approved device vendors can be found on CARB's HD I/M main webpage at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/inspection-and-maintenance-program/obd-test-devices.

How much does an OBD test device cost?

Costs may vary depending on the testing option desired. Interested parties are responsible for contacting device vendors directly for pricing on their products. We will include vendor contact information on the OBD Test Device webpage for each device.

What is the Silver Snap-Tool?

Silver Snap-Tool is CARB-validated software available for OBD compliance testing and data submission in the HD I/M program. The Silver Snap-Tool supports both SAE J1939 and SAE J1979 OBD protocols for heavy-duty vehicles, works with multiple interfaces, collects required OBD data, and transmits the data to CARB in a format specified by CARB regulations. The Silver Snap-Tool can be purchased directly from RA Consulting. Use the following link to access RA Consulting's website for more information on equipment options and pricing for the Silver Snap-Tool: http://silversnaptool.com.

Please note that a valid HD I/M Tester Identification Number is required to use this device. Please refer to the HD I/M Tester Fact Sheet for more information on the training needed to become a HD I/M tester.

How can I be sure my OBD test device is properly configured to transmit OBD test data to CARB?

After you have purchased your OBD device, installed any required software, and established your vendor account, feel free to perform OBD testing on your vehicle(s) to familiarize yourself with the testing and data transmission process. In the comments field in the user menu, state you are practicing the testing and data transmission process. Complete the full test and submit the data record to CARB following the instructions in the user manual for your device. If the transmission is successful, you will receive an automated message from CARB at the email address provided during the testing process indicating the test result.

How can I receive notification when additional CARB-validated OBD test devices are available?

Subscribe to receive email notifications when additional OBD test devices are available for use in the HD I/M program at: California Air Resources Board (govdelivery.com).

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

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.

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.