

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 85.2104

and Radiation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

[45 FR 34839, May 22, 1980, as amended at 54 FR 32587, Aug. 8, 1989; 64 FR 23919, May 4, 1999]

§ 85.2103 Emission performance warranty.

(a) The manufacturer of each vehicle to which this subpart applies shall warrant in writing that if:

(1) The vehicle is maintained and operated in accordance with the written instructions for proper maintenance and use and

(2) The vehicle fails to conform at any time during its useful life to the applicable emission standards or family emission limits as determined by an EPA-approved emission test, and

(3) Such nonconformity results or will result in the vehicle owner having to bear any penalty or other sanction (including the denial of the right to use the vehicle) under local, State or Federal law, then the manufacturer shall remedy the nonconformity at no cost to the owner; *except that*, if the vehicle has been in operation for more than 24 months or 24,000 miles, the manufacturer shall be required to remedy only those nonconformities resulting from the failure of components which have been installed in or on the vehicle for the sole or primary purpose of reducing vehicle emissions and that were not in general use prior to model year 1968.

(b) The warranty period shall begin on the date the vehicle is delivered to its ultimate purchaser, or if the vehicle is first placed in service as a "demonstrator" or "company" car prior to delivery, on the date it is first placed in service.

[45 FR 34839, May 22, 1980, as amended at 54 FR 32587, Aug. 8, 1989]

§ 85.2104 Owners' compliance with instructions for proper maintenance and use.

(a) An emission performance warranty claim may be denied on the basis of noncompliance by a vehicle owner with the written instructions for proper maintenance and use.

(b) When determining whether an owner has complied with the written instructions for proper maintenance and use, a vehicle manufacturer may

require an owner to submit evidence of compliance only with those written maintenance instructions for which the manufacturer has an objective reason for believing:

(1) Were not performed; and

(2) If not performed could be the cause of the particular vehicle's exceeding applicable emission standards.

(c) Evidence of compliance with a maintenance instruction may consist of:

(1) A maintenance log book which has been validated at the approximate time or mileage intervals specified for service by someone who regularly engages in the business of servicing automobiles for the relevant maintenance instruction(s); or

(2) A showing that the vehicle has been submitted for scheduled maintenance servicing at the approximate time or mileage intervals specified for service to someone who regularly engages in the business of servicing automobiles for the purpose of performing the relevant maintenance; or

(3) A statement by the vehicle owner that he or she performed the maintenance at the approximate time or mileage interval specified including a showing,

(i) That the owner purchased and used proper parts, and

(ii) Upon request by the vehicle manufacturer, that the owner is able to perform the maintenance properly.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, the time/mileage interval for scheduled maintenance services shall be the service interval specified for the part in the written instructions for proper maintenance and use.

(e) For certified parts having a maintenance or replacement interval different from that specified in the written instructions for proper maintenance and use, the time/mileage interval shall be the service interval for which the part was certified.

(f) The owner may perform maintenance or have maintenance performed more frequently than required in the maintenance instructions.

(g) Except as provided in paragraph (h) of this section, a manufacturer may

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deny an emission performance warranty claim on the basis of noncompliance with the written instructions for proper maintenance and use only if:

(1) An owner is not able to comply with a request by a manufacturer for evidence pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section; or

(2) Notwithstanding the evidence presented pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, the manufacturer is able to prove that the vehicle failed an emission short test because:

(i) The vehicle was abused, or

(ii) An instruction for the proper maintenance and use was performed in a manner resulting in a component's being improperly installed or a component or related parameter's being adjusted substantially outside of the manufacturer's specifications, or

(iii) Unscheduled maintenance was performed on a vehicle which resulted in the removing or rendering inoperative of any component affecting the vehicle's emissions.

(h) In no case may a manufacturer deny an emission performance warranty claim on the basis of:

(1) Warranty work or predelivery service performed by any facility authorized by the vehicle manufacturer to perform such work or service; or

(2) Work performed in an emergency situation to rectify an unsafe condition, including an unsafe driveability condition, attributable to the manufacturer, provided the vehicle owner has taken steps to put the vehicle back in a conforming condition in a timely manner; or

(3) The use of any uncertified part or non-compliance with any written instruction for proper maintenance and use which is not relevant to the reason that the vehicle failed to comply with applicable emission standards; or

(4) Any cause attributable to the vehicle manufacturer; or

(5) The use of any fuel which is commonly available in the geographical area in which the vehicle or engine is located, unless the written instructions for proper maintenance and use specify that the use of that fuel would adversely affect the emission control devices and systems of the vehicle, and there is commonly available informa-

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tion for the owner to identify the proper fuel to be used.

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§ 85.2105 Aftermarket parts.

(a) No valid emission performance warranty claim shall be denied on the basis of the use of a properly installed certified aftermarket part in the maintenance or repair of a vehicle. A vehicle manufacturer that honors a valid emission performance warranty claim involving a certified aftermarket part may seek reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in honoring the claim by following the warranty claim procedures listed in § 85.2107(c).

(b) Except as provided in § 85.2104(h), a vehicle manufacturer may deny an emission performance warranty claim on the basis of an uncertified aftermarket part used in the maintenance or repair of a vehicle if the vehicle manufacturer can demonstrate that the vehicle's failure to meet emission standards was caused by use of the uncertified part. A warranty claim may be denied if the vehicle manufacturer submits a written document to the vehicle owner that the vehicle owner is unable or unwilling to refute. The document must:

(1) Establish a causal connection between the emissions short test failure and use of the uncertified part, and,

(2) Assert that:

(i) Removal of the uncertified part and installation of any comparable certified or original equipment part previously removed or replaced during installation of the uncertified part will resolve the observed emissions failure in the vehicle, and/or

(ii) Use of the uncertified part has caused subsequent damage to other specified certified components such that replacement of these components would also be necessary to resolve the observed vehicle emissions failure, and,

(3) List all objective evidence as defined in § 85.2102 that was used in the determination to deny warranty. This evidence must be made available to the vehicle owner or EPA upon request, and

(c) A part not required to be replaced at a definite interval in accordance