

FACTSHEET

High-Occupancy Vehicle Lane Stickers

California law allows qualifying single-occupant, clean, alternative-fuel vehicles to use High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) or carpool lanes in order to improve air quality and ease freeway congestion. In order for a vehicle with just one occupant to use an HOV lane, it must display a Clean Air Vehicle Sticker issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). State law generally requires toll bridge and toll road operators to impose the same toll — or free passage — on vehicles with Clean Air Vehicle stickers as they do on carpools.

White HOV stickers: White HOV stickers allow single-occupant, super-clean vehicles that meet the federal definition of an Inherently Low Emission Vehicle to drive in carpool lanes. Model year 2018 vehicles qualifying for white stickers (all are electric) include the Ford Focus, Chevy Bolt, Hyundai Ioniq, and Kia Soul. Qualifying model year 2017 vehicles include the BMW i3 BEV (electric), Fiat 500e (electric), Hyundai Tucson Fuel Cell (hydrogen), Kia Soul Electric (electric), Mercedes Benz B-Class Electric (electric), Mitsubishi i-MiEV (electric), and Toyota Mirai (hydrogen). State law has never placed a limit on the number of white stickers DMV can issue. As of October 17, 2017, DMV had issued 156,843 white stickers.

Green HOV stickers: Green stickers allow single-occupant vehicles that meet California's transitional zero-emission vehicle requirements to drive in carpool lanes. Model year 2018 vehicles qualifying for green stickers (all plug-in hybrids) include the BMW 530e, Ford Fusion Energi, Chevy Volt, Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid, Honda Clarity Plug-in Hybrid, Mitsubishi Outlander Plug-in Hybrid, and the Volvo S90 T8, XC60 T8, and XC 90 T8. Qualifying model year 2017 vehicles include the Audi A3 e-Tron, BMW i3 REX, Chevy Volt, Ford Fusion Energi, Hyundai Sonata Plug-In Hybrid, Kia Optima Plug-In Hybrid, and Toyota Prius Prime. State law has imposed various caps over the years on the number of green stickers that DMV may issue, resulting in wait lists; in 2016, the Legislature removed the cap entirely. As of October 17, 2017, DMV had issued 130,456 green stickers.

A list of qualifying vehicles for green and white HOV stickers is available from the California Air Resources Board website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/carpool/carpool.htm#FAQ>.

New sticker program will launch in 2019. Under the current Clean Air Vehicle program, all green and white stickers are valid until the program expires on January 1, 2019. AB 544 (Bloom), Chapter 630, Statutes of 2017, allows holders of green and white stickers issued between January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2019 to apply for a new sticker that will be valid until January 1, 2022; green and white stickers issued prior to January 1, 2017 will expire on January 1, 2019. AB 544 creates a new program, effective January 1, 2019, under which stickers will be valid until January 1 of the fourth year after issuance. Under the new program, an individual who has received a rebate under the Clean Vehicle Rebate Project (CVRP) will be ineligible for

a sticker unless his or her income falls below the following income limits: \$150,000 for single filer, \$204,000 for a head-of-household filer, or \$300,000 for a joint filer.

Yellow stickers: expired. Legislation passed in 2004 established the first sticker program, under which hybrid or alternatively fueled vehicles (primarily the Toyota Prius) could obtain a yellow sticker to gain access to HOV lanes. State law capped eligibility for yellow stickers at 85,000 vehicles, a limit that DMV reached in 2007; all yellow stickers expired on July 1, 2011.

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