

INFORMATION BULLETIN



September 9, 2025

EXPIRATION OF CLEAN AIR VEHICLE DECALS

The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to notify departmental employees of the impending expiration of the California Clean Air Vehicle (CAV) Decal Program. This program, administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles, along with the California Air Resources Board, allows vehicles meeting specific emissions standards to display CAV decals and use high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes with a sole occupant. Effective September 30, 2025, the key shaped decals, regardless of color, will expire and no longer grant access to the HOV lane. Pursuant to Section 5205.5(k) of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), a 60-day grace period will follow the expiration date, during which drivers shall not be cited for violations of Section 21655.9 CVC.

Per [Section 5205.5 CVC](#):

(i) If the Director of Transportation determines that federal law does not authorize the state to allow vehicles that are identified by distinctive decals, labels, or other identifiers on vehicles described in subdivision (a) to use highway lanes or highway access ramps for high-occupancy vehicles regardless of vehicle occupancy, the Director of Transportation shall submit a notice of that determination to the Secretary of State.

(j) This section shall become inoperative on the date the federal authorization pursuant to Title 23, Section 166 of the United States Code expires, or the date the Secretary of State receives the notice described in subdivision (i), whichever occurs first.

(k) If this section becomes inoperative pursuant to subdivision (j) the driver of a vehicle with an otherwise valid decal, label, or other identifier issued pursuant to this section shall not be cited for a violation of [Section 21655.9 CVC](#) within 60 days of the date that this section becomes inoperative.

Questions regarding this IB should be directed to the Special Projects Section at (916) 843-3370.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OPI: 063

