

Workgroup updates for the MSTRS meeting on October 14, 1998:

In-Use Deterioration Workgroup

Purpose: To determine the extent of in-use emissions deterioration of light-duty vehicles and recommend programs or approaches that can reduce in-use emissions deterioration.

Composition: The workgroup includes over 20 stakeholders from the auto industry, environmental groups, and state associations.

Approach taken: The workgroup divided into two teams. The Data Analysis Team examined data from vehicles in the existing fleet to determine how much deterioration occurs, and made recommendations for further data collection and analysis. The New Technology/Solutions Team examined technological and other solutions for maintaining low in-use emissions from current and future light-duty vehicles.

Overall schedule: The workgroup prepared a final report with its findings, dated July 1997, which became the foundation of the work undertaken by the Incentives Workgroup.

Status: Currently inactive.

Innovative and Incentive Programs Workgroup

Purpose: The purpose of the Innovative and Incentive Programs Workgroup is to further explore the application of incentive mechanisms to a variety of areas identified by the In-use Deterioration Workgroup: emission labeling, consumer response to OBD, and improving the operation of I/M.

Composition: The workgroup consists of about 20 members representing the auto manufacturers, the repair industry -- both dealerships and independents, state governments, and others.

Approach: The workgroup formed three subgroups to explore the three areas in depth. The subgroups reported back to the workgroup on the gist of their discussions and their recommendations. The issues and recommendations were discussed further by the workgroup as a whole. A final report detailing the workgroup's discussions and recommendations is being prepared.

Status: The workgroup's last scheduled meeting is October 13. It is anticipated that recommendations will be finalized at that meeting and that a final report will be forwarded to the subcommittee when it has been completed. This will likely happen some time after the subcommittee meeting of October 14.

On-Board Diagnostic Technical Evaluation Workgroup

Purpose: The purpose of the On-Board Diagnostic Technical Evaluation Workgroup is to evaluate the technical merits of using on-board diagnostics for purposes of inspection/maintenance programs, and to aid in the analysis of potential SIP credits for OBD.

Background: EPA delayed the federal requirement to inspect the OBD system as part of the I/M program in states until January 1, 2001 (from January 1, 1998) so that a technical evaluation could take place. This workgroup was formed to aid the agency in putting this evaluation in place and advising the agency on how such inspections can be performed in an I/M environment.

Composition: The workgroup includes over 25 stakeholders from the automotive industry, academic institutions, inspection maintenance contractors, OBD hardware manufacturers, and various state representatives.

Approach taken: The workgroup has focused on gathering data through various test programs and educating itself on OBD and I/M issues. The group will develop positions consistent with the data gathered.

Overall schedule: The group has developed guidance for I/M programs considering using OBD inspections prior to the federal requirement. This was done to try and educate and prevent any program from instituting a program which could harm the long term viability of OBD as an I/M tool. Data gathering for the analysis of SIP credits will conclude around September of 1999. The workgroup will then undertake the analysis of the data and develop advice on what value OBD has as an I/M tool.

Compliance Reinvention Workgroup

Some basic information on this workgroup is contained in the presentation made to the CAAAC on 10/2. A copy of that presentation is elsewhere in this packet.

The latest news is that the comment period has closed for the proposed rule on CAP2000.

Laboratory Upgrades Workgroup

Some basic information on this workgroup is contained in the presentation made to the CAAAC on 10/2. A copy of that presentation is elsewhere in this packet.

Overall, the final report from the workgroup was presented to the MSTRS on July 15 and forwarded to the CAAAC for review and submittal to EPA. We are awaiting the results of their review.