



Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

Air Resources Board

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Chairman

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Gray Davis
Governor

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December 13, 1999

Eric Hsu
A'pex Integration, Inc.
17091 Daimler St.
Irvine, CA 92614

Dear Mr. Hsu:

This is in response to your letter dated November 18, 1999, regarding the Air Resources Board's (ARB) policy on exhaust system modifications downstream of the catalytic converter.

Current ARB policy is that exhaust system modifications made downstream of the catalytic converter do not require a Vehicle Code Section (VC) 27156 exemption as long as the following conditions are satisfied: The vehicle does not use a back pressure exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) valve, and no sensors are relocated. For vehicles with a back pressure EGR valve, and/or the relocation of any sensor, a VC 27156 exemption would be required to ensure that changes in the back pressure or sensor relocation due to the modified exhaust system do not affect the EGR or sensor operation. Enclosed is a copy of the "Procedures for Exemption of Add-On or Modified Parts" for your guidance. If you are able to prove that your exhaust system does not have a significant effect on the vehicle's exhaust back pressure during on-cycle conditions, then emission testing may not be required for the issuance of a VC 27156 exemption.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Richard Muradliyan, Air Resources Engineer, Aftermarket Parts Section at (626) 575-6798.

Sincerely,

John Kowalski

for John Kowalski, Chief
Certification Branch

Enclosure