

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 2017 vehicles qualifying for white stickers 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). Qualifying model year 2016 vehicles (all electric) include the Chevy Spark EV, Ford Focus, Nissan LEAF, Tesla Model S, Tesla Model X, and Volkswagen e-Golf, among others. As of September 30, 2016, DMV had issued 115,935 white stickers. State law has never placed a limit on the number of white stickers DMV can issue. White stickers are valid until January 1, 2019.

Green HOV stickers: Green stickers allow single-occupant vehicles that meet California's transitional zero-emission vehicle (TZEV) requirements to drive in carpool lanes. Model year 2017 vehicles qualifying for green stickers (all plug-in hybrids) 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. Qualifying model year 2016 vehicles include the Cadillac ELR, Ford C-Max Energi, and Volvo XC90 T8, among others. State law initially limited the number of green stickers that DMV may issue to 40,000. Subsequent legislation increased the cap multiple times; the most recent cap of 85,000 was reached in December 2015. In 2016, the Legislature removed the cap entirely and DMV began issuing green stickers again in September 2016. As of September 30, 2016, DMV had issued 87,192 green stickers. Green stickers are valid until January 1, 2019.

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

Legislation passed in 2004 established yellow stickers, which granted HOV access to hybrid or alternatively fueled vehicles (primarily the Toyota Prius). 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.

October 2016