

CLEAN ENERGY MINNESOTA

Clean Cars standards: trucks get cleaner while maintaining performance, availability

With clean cars standards, automakers are still able to sell larger vehicles with no reduction in current weight. In fact, the standards were developed so that manufacturers could comply while maintaining full availability of all models, including trucks, minivans, and SUVs.

Clean Cars standards protect trucks

The state-based clean cars standards were developed to achieve the most cost-effective and feasible global warming pollution reductions from passenger cars and light-duty trucks. **The standards cannot ban any vehicle category or require a vehicle weight reduction.**

Standards differ for cars and trucks

The standards include separate requirements for different vehicle classes: passenger cars and small light duty trucks (up to 3,750 pounds) and large light duty trucks and SUVs (3,750 to 8,500 pounds). **Trucks over 8,500 pounds are exempt from the standards.**

The standards were developed so that even the manufacturer with the greatest amount of global warming emissions will be able to meet the requirements without discontinuing any trucks or vehicle models.

Flexibility is built into the standards

The clean cars standards apply only to fleet averages, meaning each vehicle model will not need to meet emission limits independently. Manufacturers may average emissions reductions across all models in

a weight class, aggregate different global warming pollutants, save excess credits for later use, use credits from one weight class to offset emissions from another, and even trade credits with other manufacturers. Additionally, manufacturers can receive credit for emissions reductions achieved in model years 2000-2008 before the standards take effect, for improvements in air conditioning systems, and for using alternative fuels such as E85.



Trucks meet the standards with current technology
Several SUVs and trucks already satisfy the 2016 clean cars standards—the 2008 GMC Sierra 1500 (top) when running on E85, and the 2008 Chevy Tahoe by utilizing a two-mode hybrid engine.