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23 February 2006

Vehicle Emissions Rule
Rules team
Land transport NZ
PO Box 2840 Wellington

Dear Sir/ Madam

Draft Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Exhaust emissions [2006] 33001/1

I believe that this rule will be inadequate to address the current adverse health effects for New Zealanders.

The rule will not enforce routine Warrant of Fitness detection of harmful non-visual pollutants. These are:

Carbon Monoxide

The health effects are increases in cardiovascular disease symptoms, increased incidence of angina and duration of angina, neurobehavioural disturbances, impairment of visual perception, impairment of children's ability to learn, and low birth weights of babies.

Nitrogen dioxide

The health effects include increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits for respiratory disease and asthma, exacerbation of asthma, decreases in lung function, increases in respiratory illness, and increased deaths. Susceptible subgroups include asthmatics, children, the elderly and people with existing respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

Ozone

The health effects include increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits for respiratory disease and cardiovascular disease, decreases in lung function, increases in respiratory symptoms such as cough and increases mortality. Sensitive subgroups of the population include the elderly and asthmatics.

Sulfur dioxide

The health effects include increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits for respiratory disease and asthma, exacerbation of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, irritation of the upper airways, increases in respiratory infections and increased mortality. Asthmatics form a particularly sensitive subgroup.

Each year in New Zealand about 400 adults die from health effects due to air pollution, mainly due to vehicle exhaust emissions containing the above poisons. In addition many children suffer from low birth weight, and increases cough and wheeze and there are many avoidable hospital admissions.

I urge the rule be changed so that it will enforce routine Warrant of Fitness detection of harmful non-visual pollutants. I understand that we are the only OECD country that does not do this. The costs of the program would be offset by the health benefits, increased productivity, and reduction in health expenditure.

I would like to speak to this submission.

Yours sincerely

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Honorary Respiratory consultant
Starship Children's Health

Cc
Minister of Health
Minister of Transport
Minister for the Environment
Department of Prime Minister's Office