

MANAGEMENT MEMO

NUMBER:

MM 12-03

SUBJECT:

SOLAR REFLECTIVE COLORS FOR STATE VEHICLES

DATE ISSUED:

APRIL 16, 2012

EXPIRES:

Until Rescinded

REFERENCES: PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE §25722.5 et seq; GOVERNMENT CODE §11000 AND §13332.09; VEHICLE CODE §165 AND §25252; STATE ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL SECTION: 3600

ISSUING AGENCY:

DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES**THIS MANAGEMENT MEMO AMENDS §3600 OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL**

Purpose of this Memorandum

The purpose of this management memo is to inform State agencies that solar reflective colors (white, silver metallic and gold metallic) are now mandatory to order on all light-duty passenger vehicles. The Department of General Services (DGS) Procurement Division now requires white as the default color on the State's light-duty vehicle contracts.¹ This management memo advises State agencies to only procure vehicles in solar reflective colors (white, silver metallic or gold metallic) unless specifically exempted by this management memo or the agency is granted specific approval to use a non-solar reflective color by the DGS Office of Fleet and Asset Management (OFAM).

Background

Public Resources Code §25722.5 et seq. requires the State's vehicle fleet to reduce petroleum consumption and green house gas (GHG) emissions through several prescriptive measures, such as: the greater use of alternative fuels, and acquiring more fuel efficient vehicles. Studies have shown that darker colors can raise a vehicle's cabin temperature significantly, thereby requiring greater use of the air conditioning system and increasing fuel consumption. Solar reflective colors require the engine's air conditioning system to work less thereby reducing fuel consumption and associated GHG emissions (i.e., carbon dioxide) by as much as 0.3-0.8 percent for every vehicle that is replaced with a solar reflective colored vehicle.

Who is affected

All State entities under the jurisdiction of Government Code §11000, unless specifically exempted.

Who should review

Executive Officers, Administrative Officers, Fleet Coordinators, Managers, Supervisors, Business Services Officers, Department Auditors, and State Vehicle Operators.

¹ **4.11 EXTERIOR COLOR:** The exterior color shall be selected from the manufacturer's published listing of factory available colors. The agency will identify the paint color and scheme on the purchase order. If the exterior color is not specified, the default color shall be white.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL

Policy

When acquiring light-duty vehicles, State agencies shall only order the following solar reflective colors: white, silver metallic or gold metallic, unless pre-authorized by OFAM to use a non-solar reflective color. State agencies with vehicles in the exempt categories listed below are encouraged to order solar reflective colors wherever practical.

Exemptions

- For an exemption to this policy include a written request along with the vehicle acquisition package being submitted to OFAM. The following preapproved exemptions do not require a written request:
 - Vehicles over 8,500 GVWR
 - Vehicles that are NOT rated for highway speeds (e.g.: Gator, electric cart)
 - Authorized emergency vehicles, as defined in §165 of the Vehicle Code, that are equipped with emergency lamps or lights described in §25252 of the Vehicle Code.
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DGS Contact

For further information about the solar reflective color policy, please contact:

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Original Management Memo signed by Fred Klass, Director DGS

Signature:

Fred Klass, Director
Department of General Services