

Understanding Catalytic Converter Labeling

Aftermarket replacement catalytic converters are labeled with important information necessary to ensure that installations comply with California law. New aftermarket converters produced and sold before January 1, 2009 are labeled according to U.S. EPA requirements. A code in the following format will be stamped or affixed to the shell of the converter:

T/CA/MC XXXX YYYY

- T: Either “N” (for new aftermarket converters), or “U” (for certified used converters). ARB staff has found that this character is sometimes omitted on new aftermarket converters.
- CA: Indicates that the converter has been ARB approved
- MC: A two character code for the converter manufacturer
- XXXX: The converter’s part or series number. The number may be longer than 4 digits
- YYYY: The date of manufacture. The first two digits indicate the month, and the last two the year.

The manufacturer code and part number information can be used with the manufacturers’ catalog to verify that the converter is approved for installation in California on a particular vehicle model. Converters currently California certified for use on OBD II vehicles also have “OBD II” (or “OBD2”) stamped or affixed to the shell of the converter. Below is a list of valid manufacturer codes for California.

Manufacturer Codes

Code	Manufacturer	Code	Manufacturer
AD	Advanced Car Specialties Ltd (RiteCat).	ES	ESW America, Inc.
AE	The Automotive Edge (Hermoff)	ET	Emico Technologies, Inc.
AT	AirTek, Inc. (Catco)	LP	LaPointe Exhaust System Equipment
BN	Brown Recycling & Manufacturing, Inc.	MC	Miller Catalyzer Corp
BO	Bosal Mexico SA DECV	MM	Maremont
CE	Car Sound Exhaust System, Inc. (Magnaflow)	PA	Perfection Auto Prod. Corp
CT	Valina, Inc. (CarTex)	PP	Products For Power
CV	Cateran Pty Ltd.	TA	Walker Manufacturing
EM	Eastern Manufacturing, Inc.	TD	TRI-D Industries Inc.
EQ	Equipo Industrial Automotriz S.A. de C.V.	TP	Tested Products (DEC)

An example of what the labeling looks like is provided below. For this example, the label indicates:

- “N” - this was produced as a new aftermarket converter
- “CA” - approved for use in California
- “TA” - produced by Tenneco, but marketed under the Walker brand name.
- The series number is 200300

- “09 05” - It was manufactured in September 2005
- “OBD II” - It is approved for use on specific OBD II applications



The label for converters meeting California’s new requirements will be slightly different, and will appear on all new aftermarket converters approved for use in California by January 1, 2009:

D-XXX-XX
 YYYYYY
 ZZZZ

D-XXX-XX: This is the ARB approval number for the converter (known as the “EO number”). Every EO number will begin with “D”. The first three X’s will be a 3 digit number corresponding to the manufacturer. The last two digits will be the specific approval number for the manufacturer. The EO number can be used to obtain information about the approval status of the converter on ARB’s website in the same manner that other aftermarket add-on and performance parts can be looked up. The website address is <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aftermkt/devices/amquery.php>.

YYYYYY: The part number for the converter (assigned by the manufacturer)

ZZZZ: The date of manufacture. The first two digits indicate the month, and the last two the year.