

NEWS



Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association

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Catalyst Technology for Motorcycles Is Helping to Address Air Quality Problems in Asia

WASHINGTON, DC -- Motorcycle and moped use has rapidly expanded over the past several years, especially in the urban areas of Asia. Without emission controls, these vehicles emit substantial quantities of hydrocarbon (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate emissions. They are significant contributors to urban air pollution in many countries in Asia where two- and three-wheel vehicles make up a substantial portion of the motor vehicle fleet. Increasingly, catalyst technology is being used on these vehicles to dramatically cut harmful emissions.

Worldwide, the two- and three-wheel vehicle fleet has been growing at a rate of 7 million units per year, based on sales of about 20 million new vehicles per year and the retirement of about 13 million vehicles per year. The greatest concentration of these vehicles are found in countries like Taiwan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, and India. Increasingly, countries in Asia are moving to address the pollution problems posed by the high volume of motorcycles and mopeds. Taiwan has led the way in cleaning up emissions from these vehicles with initial standards taking effect in 1984 and tighter standards introduced in 1992 and 1998.

Catalyst technology on motorcycles has achieved emission reductions in the range of 60% for HC and 80% for CO. Another benefit of catalyst technology is the reduction of white smoke (particulate) from 2-stroke motorcycles; reductions in exhaust stream opacity of 50 percent or greater have been reported. Bruce Bertelsen, executive director of the Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association (MECA), stated, "Catalyst technology is a proven and cost-effective approach for reducing pollution from both 2-stroke and 4-stroke motorcycles and mopeds while allowing the desired vehicle performance to be maintained. This technology is playing a major role in helping countries in Asia address their air quality challenges and will play an even greater role in the future."

Worldwide, over 5 million catalyst-equipped motorcycles and mopeds have been sold. The vast majority of those vehicles are in Asia, but a growing number of catalyst-equipped vehicles can be found in Europe. In the U.S., where motorcycles are not considered a major source of pollution, only a limited number of catalyst-equipped motorcycles have been sold.

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MECA has released a report, *Emission Control of Two- and Three-Wheel Vehicles (May 1999)*, which reviews control strategies for reducing emissions from motorcycles and mopeds, including the control capabilities of catalyst technology, and discusses the key elements needed to implement an effective regulatory program to reduce emissions from these vehicles. For a copy of the report, contact MECA's Mandy Monk at 202.296.4797 or download it from MECA's web site at www.meca.org.

MECA, founded in 1976, is the association of the world's leading companies that manufacture emission control equipment for automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, off-road vehicles, and select stationary sources.

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