

CA CROSSING CHEAT SHEET

[2026 EDITION]

For Non-CA Trucks & RVs entering California

This guide is for anyone with a **diesel vehicle over 14,000 lbs** (Trucks, Semis, RVs) needing to **cross the California border** without getting flagged, fined, or cited.

THE "3-STEP" FIX

If you are crossing into CA more than once a year, you cannot ignore this. They use roadside cameras (REMD) that read plates and sniff exhaust. You won't know you were flagged until the fine arrives.

1 REGISTER

You must create an account and list your vehicle VINs.

- **Where:** [Clean Truck Check \(CTC-VIS\) Portal](#)
- **Cost:** Free to register.

2 PAY

- **Fee:** \$32.13 per vehicle (2026 rate).
- **Deadline:** Due immediately if you haven't paid yet.
- **Note:** You must pay this before you enter the state to be safe.

3 TEST

- **Most Trucks:** Pass test 2x per year.
- **RVs (Personal Use):** Pass test 1x per year.
- **How:** You need a "Credentialed Tester" with an OBD scanner.

Schedule your test with [Portland DES](#) (we've got **Certified CTC testers** standing by)
Or "roll the dice" for yourself: Search the CARB Tester Database [Here](#)

THE "CHEAT CODES" (Exemptions)

CODE #1: The "5-Day Pass" (One-Time Trip)

If you are just passing through (e.g., Snowbirds heading to Arizona) or doing a single run, you do NOT need to pay the full fee or test.

- **Rule:** You get one 5-day pass per vehicle, per calendar year.
- **Catch:** You must file for it 7 days before you enter CA.
- **Where:** Log into the CTC-VIS portal > Select "5-Day Pass."

CODE #2: The "Agricultural" Exception

If your truck is **exclusively** used for **ag operations** (hauling your own farm goods, not for hire), you only test 1x per year, not twice.

THE DEADLINE CALCULATOR (For Out-of-State Plates)

If your truck is registered in Oregon, Washington, or BC, your testing deadlines are based on the last number of your VIN.

VIN ENDS IN:	TEST 1 DEADLINE:	TEST 2 DEADLINE:
0	APRIL 30	OCTOBER 31
1	MAY 31	NOVEMBER 30
2	JUNE 30	DECEMBER 31
3	JULY 31	JANUARY 31
4	AUGUST 31	FEBRUARY 28
5	SEPTEMBER 30	MARCH 31
6	OCTOBER 31	APRIL 30
7	NOVEMBER 30	MAY 31
8	DECEMBER 31	JUNE 30
9	JANUARY 31	JULY 31

(Note: You can submit test results up to **90 days** before these deadlines.)

⬮ RED FLAGS (Do Not Ignore) ⬮

- **Check Engine Light:** If your CEL is on, you will fail. Fix it before you pay for a test.
- **Recent Code Clearing:** If you just cleared your codes, you need to drive the truck for a few cycles before testing, or the scanner will reject it as "Not Ready."

Any questions? [Get pricing info & details here.](#) Shop & Mobile Testing.

Contact: Phone: [1-971-544-7282](tel:1-971-544-7282) or email: info@des.direct.com

Our Address: [9861 North Vancouver Way, Portland, OR 97217](#)

(Next door to Premier Rubber, just down the road from Jubitz Truck Stop)

