

News - Winter 2002

CE-CERT Looks at the Impact of Unregistered Vehicles

THE BOURNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING-CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (CE-CERT), UNDER contract to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), conducted a study of the on-road fleet in California from June 2000 to December 2000. An accurate profile of this fleet is essential for understanding and controlling pollution in urban areas. An important part of understanding the on-road vehicle fleet is the characterization of the unregistered vehicle population both in terms of number of vehicles and type of vehicles. A secondary, but still significant, component of the on-road fleet is the out-of-state and out-of-country vehicles.

During this study, vehicles were photographed at various destination parking lots in every county in California. A total of 98,817 pictures having readable license plates were taken. After transcription of the license plate number from the photograph to spreadsheets, the data were vehicle-identification-number decoded by CARB staff, correlated with Smog Check results provided by Bureau of Automotive Repair staff, and correlated with Department of Motor Vehicles registration records.

Results, recently reported to CARB, include a statewide average of 3.38% (rounded to 2 significant figures) unregistered California vehicles. Riverside and Imperial counties averaged 5 to 6%.

2001-02 CE-CERT Student Awards

Graduate Fellowships:

- William R. Pierson/Ford Motor Company Graduate Student Fellowship--Rong (Rachel) Huang, Computer Science and Engineering Graduate Program. Intelligent transportation system simulation modeling and analysis.

Other News



Brett Holmberg, a Chemical Engineering graduate student, was awarded second place and \$300 for his poster entry on display at the Bourns College of Engineering's Industry Day in December. Brett's poster was entitled "Polymer-Zeolite Nanocomposite Membranes for Fuel Cells."



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