

Brake Friction Material Legislation

Beginning January 1, 2014 in California and January 1, 2015 in Washington, all new brake pads and shoes are required to have appropriate labels indicating compliance with state regulations regarding friction material compounds.* The required LeafMarks and edge codes are detailed here.

What Do the LeafMarks Mean?



Contains more than 5% of Copper by weight

- (a) Asbestiform fibers, less than 0.1% by weight
- (b) Cadmium and its compounds, less than 0.01% by weight
- (c) Chromium (VI)-salts, less than 0.1% by weight
- (d) Lead and its compounds, less than 0.1% by weight
- (e) Mercury and its compounds, less than 0.1% by weight



Contains between 0.5% and 5% of Copper by weight

- (a) Asbestiform fibers, less than 0.1% by weight
- (b) Cadmium and its compounds, less than 0.01% by weight
- (c) Chromium (VI)-salts, less than 0.1% by weight
- (d) Lead and its compounds, less than 0.1% by weight
- (e) Mercury and its compounds, less than 0.1% by weight



Contains less than 0.5% of Copper by weight

- (a) Asbestiform fibers, less than 0.1% by weight
- (b) Cadmium and its compounds, less than 0.01% by weight
- (c) Chromium (VI)-salts, less than 0.1% by weight
- (d) Lead and its compounds, less than 0.1% by weight
- (e) Mercury and its compounds, less than 0.1% by weight



Key Dates for Copper Legislation

2015

(a) On an after January 1, 2014 (2015 in Washington), any motor vehicle brake friction materials containing any of the following constituents in an amount that exceeds the following concentrations shall not be sold in these states.

- (1) Cadmium and its compounds: 0.01% by weight
- (2) Chromium (VI)-salts: 0.1% by weight
- (3) Lead and its compounds: 0.1% by weight
- (4) Mercury and its compounds: 0.1% by weight
- (5) Asbestiform Fibers: 0.1% by weight

(b) Motor vehicle manufacturers and distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of replacement brake friction materials may continue to offer for sale brake friction materials not certified as compliant with subdivision (a) solely for the purpose of depletion of inventories until December 31, 2023.

2021

On or after January 1, 2021, any motor vehicle brake friction materials exceeding 5 percent copper by weight shall not be sold in these states.

2025

On or after January 1, 2025, any motor vehicle brake friction materials exceeding .5 percent copper by weight shall not be sold in these states.

*Recent legislation regulating hazardous material content in brake pad friction has passed in California (CA SB346) and Washington (WA6557). Other states are currently considering similar legislation.

Labeling
Required

5.0%

0.5%

Brake Pad Edge Codes

All brake pads and shoes are required to have a manufacturers edge code indicating the level of compliance with friction material content legislation. This information is required to be printed on every brake pad and shoe.

Company Code / Pad Number / Formulation Code / Vendor # / Friction Code / Week / Environmental Code / Year of Manufacture

CEN

10405620

14AA1234

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