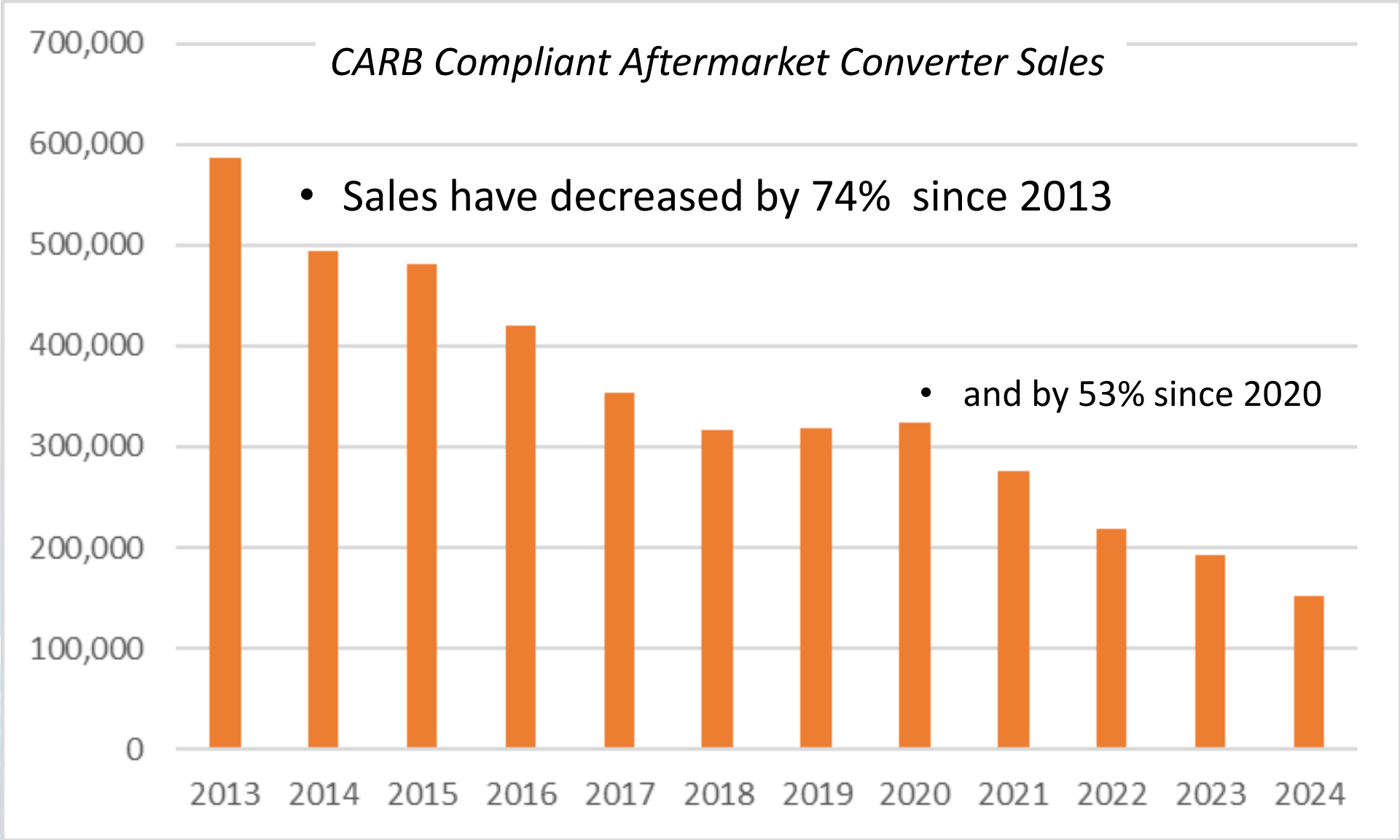


Fraudulent Aftermarket Converters and O₂ Sensor Defeat Devices

April 23, 2026



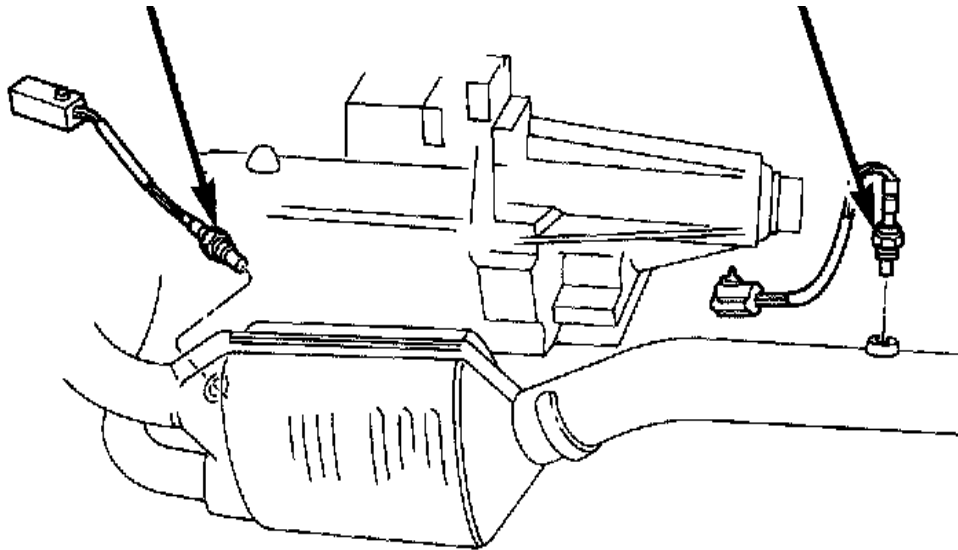
Aftermarket Catalytic Converter Sales Since 1985



NOx / O₂ Sensor Installation & Legitimate Repair

Upstream O₂ Sensor
controls engine operation

Downstream O₂ Sensor
monitors emissions control



Sensor needs unrestricted exposure to
exhaust flow



KIMISS O2 Bung Oxygen Sensor, Fit
for M18 X 1.5 Threads O2 Oxygen
Sensor Stepped Recessed Nut Bun...

★★★★☆ 21

\$10²⁷

Legitimate repair
using a replacement bung

Maintains O₂
sensor position in the
exhaust stream

Tampering of O₂ Sensors Using Spacers / Emulators / Stabilizers / CEL fix eliminators

Defeating the downstream O₂ sensor



First step:
Find the position for sensor spacers



Second Step:
Take off the old sensor spacer



Third Step:
Put on the new sensor spacer to the car



Last Step:
Install the sensor spacer on the bolts,
then finish.



Small orifice



Wire screen



90°



With mini "catalyst"

A spacer merely removes the O₂ sensor from the exhaust stream reducing signal sensitivity

2024 Analysis of O₂ Sensor Spacer catalyst

- Trace mounts of PGM – less than 0.3 g/ft³ of Pt and Pd and less than 0.1 g/ft³ Rh.
 - Typical OE formulations - underfloor range from 5 to 30 g/ft³; close-couple start at 30 g/ft³
- Low OSC 350 g/ft³ Ce and 450 g/ft³ Zr.
- Analysis indicates catalyst was not constructed for TWC emissions control.
- Catalyst formulation intended only to treat exhaust flow before O₂ sensor to turn off Check engine light.



O2 Sensor Spacers Widely Available On-line

- 70 search results for O₂ Sensor spacer on a major retailer with Sacramento in-store pick-up!

Results for "o2 sensor adapter cell eliminator" (35)

Uses item details. Price when purchased online ⓘ



50 PCS

Options

Sponsored ⓘ

\$25⁹⁹

3mirrors O2 Sensor,Universal Straight Sensor Extension with M18 x 1.5 Sensor Hole 45mm 1.77in, 50-Pack

★★★★☆ 85

Free shipping, arrives in 3+ days

Clearance



Options

Sponsored ⓘ

Now \$8⁹⁹ \$9.99 +\$5.99 shipping

Options from \$8.99 - \$16.98

4pc Car Oxygen O2 Sensor Adapter CEL Fix Check Engine Light Eliminator Connector Extension Filter

Shipping arrives in 3+ days

Best seller



+ Add

Sponsored ⓘ

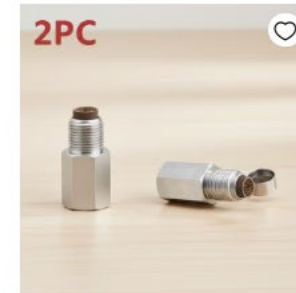
\$8⁹⁹

Vruelia 2Pcs M18x1.5mm Threaded O2 Oxygen Sensors Fitting Adapter

★★★★☆ 3

Save with W+

Shipping arrives in 3+ days



+ Add

Now \$12⁹⁹ \$18.48 +\$4.99 shipping

O2 Sensor Eliminator with Integrated Catalyst, Check Engine Light Fix Mini Adapter, 2PC

Shipping arrives in 3+ days

Clearance



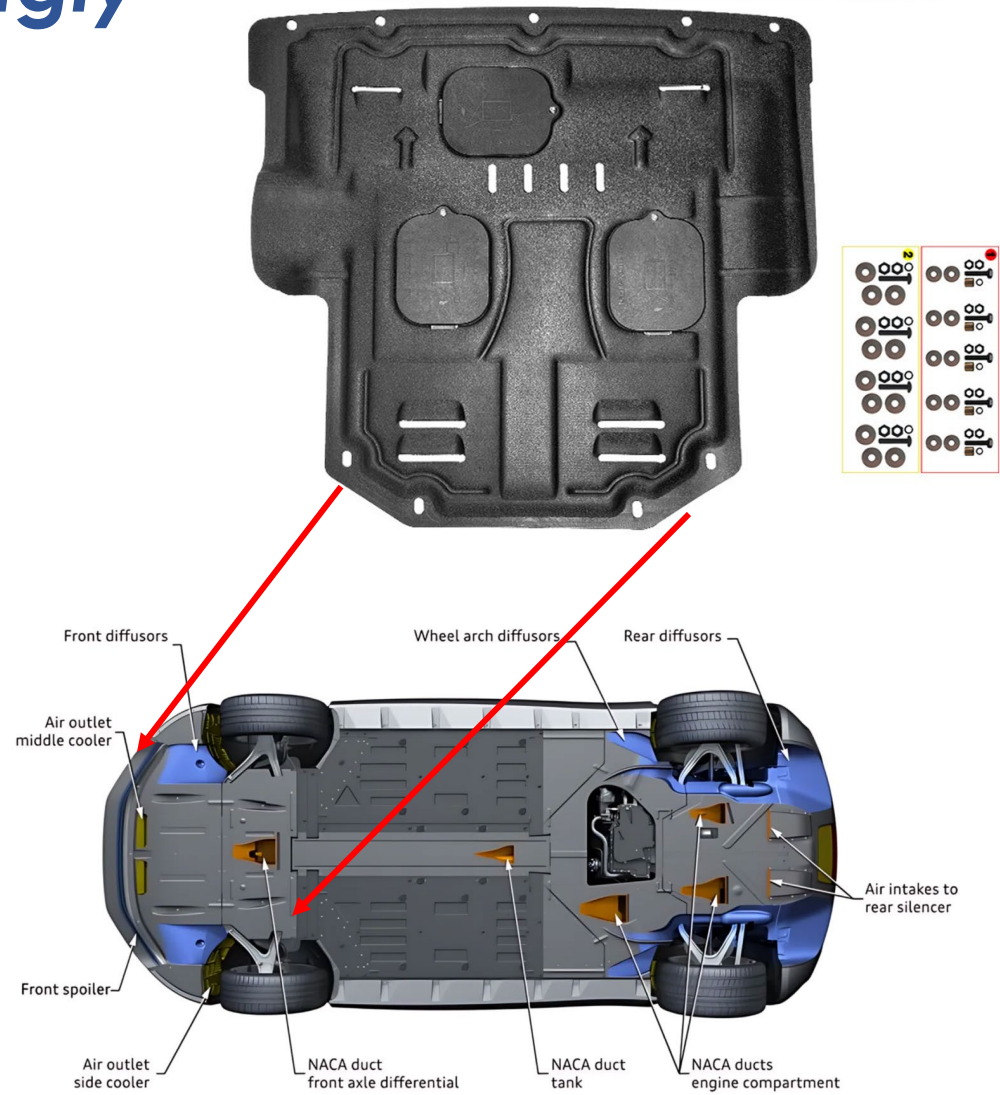
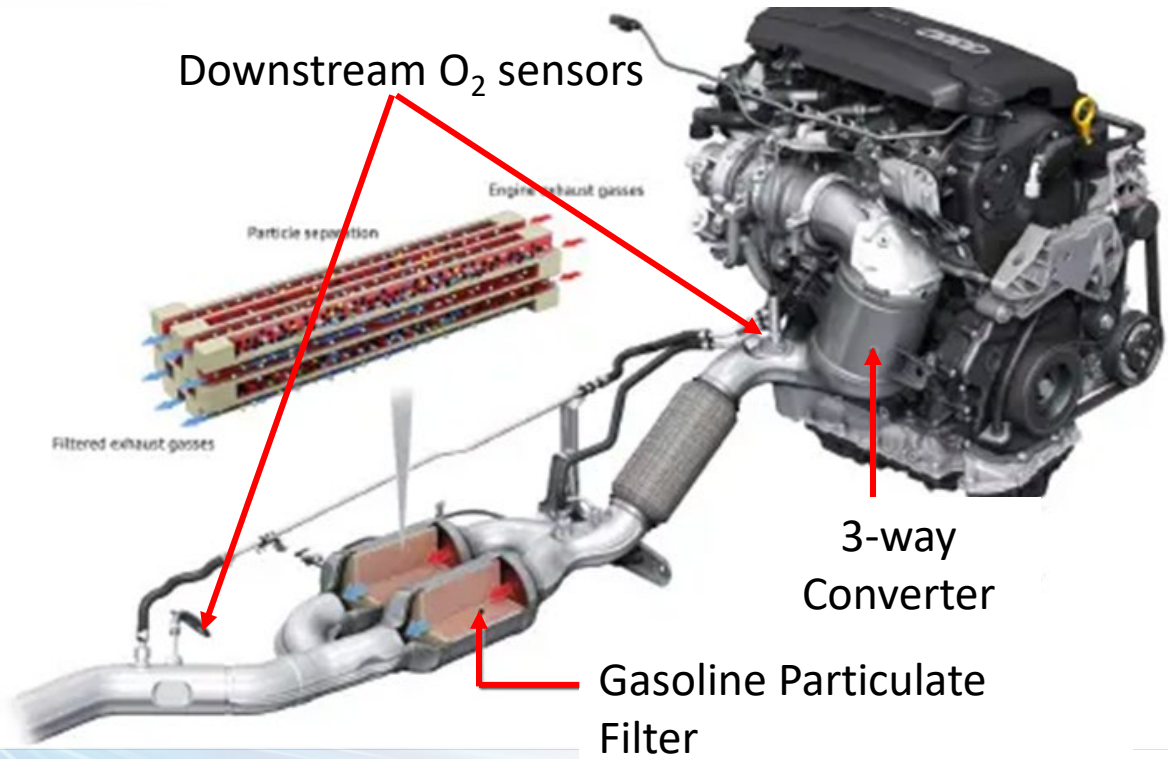
Clearance



Clearance



Today's Vehicles are Increasingly Difficult to Inspect



Links to “how-to” on-line videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcd346pg6eQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3MEtJafabE&list=WL&index=3>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NB6fWbiBpw&list=WL&index=7>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmFhmNIAC_E

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltuQXSUkaWU>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=O2%20sensor%20spacers>

Dumping of Low-Cost Non-Compliant Aftermarket Converters

- Product being dumped into the North American market by foreign entities under numerous brand names
- Predominantly Internet sales with money going directly to foreign accounts but product being shipped from US commercial warehouses including California
- Significant economic impact on legitimate manufacturers, reducing their ability to invest for future California market needs

U.S. vs non-U.S. aftermarket converters



Shop by category

Search for anything

All Categories

2015 Toyota Camry
LE Sedan 4-Door
2.5L 2494CC 152Cu. In. I4 GAS DOHC Naturally Aspirated



My Garage
This vehicle will be saved to My Garage.

Universal Converters



NEW LOW PRICE

Walker Ultra EPA 15820 Direct Fit Catalytic Converter 2.5" Inlet (ID) 2.25" O...

Brand New

\$259.87

Buy It Now

Shipping not specified

Located in United States

osbena-70 100% positive (384)

*U.S. mfr / EPA
compliant converter*



2Pcs 2.25 Inch Inlet/Outlet Universal Weld-On Catalytic Converter EPA Compliant

For Honda Toyota Chevrolet Acura GMC Kia Lexus All Trim



autoparts-home2015 (26083)

98.1% positive · Seller's other items · Contact seller

US \$46.00/ea or Best Offer

Condition: New

Compatibility: See compatible vehicles

Quantity: 1 More than 10 available · 62 sold

*Non-compliant
non-U.S.
converter*



Fraudulent Catalyst Case Study

- A member took a car into a service facility in California with an illuminated check engine light



- After some negotiation and \$800, a call was placed and a van drove up and delivered a wrapped catalyst to the shop

Fraudulent Catalyst Case Study – What was found?

- The OE converter was cut open, the OE catalysts removed and the wrapped fraudulent converter was welded into the converter
- CEL reset and remained off for brief period until fraudulent converter was removed for assessment.
- Emissions testing now in progress and post-mortem of the fraudulent converter

Fraudulent wrapped catalyst

Welded into OE can



Post-Inspection of Modified Converter

Key Issues

- **Lack of National Enforcement of Off-shore Manufacturers**
 - National border enforcement easier than 50 state field enforcement
- **Predominantly on-line sales at costs well below legitimate products**
 - Overwhelmingly product comes from outside the U.S.;
 - Manufacturers direct ship or direct U.S. warehouses ship the parts
 - Many large on-line general and automotive retailers marketing product

Recent EPA vs. eBay court decision

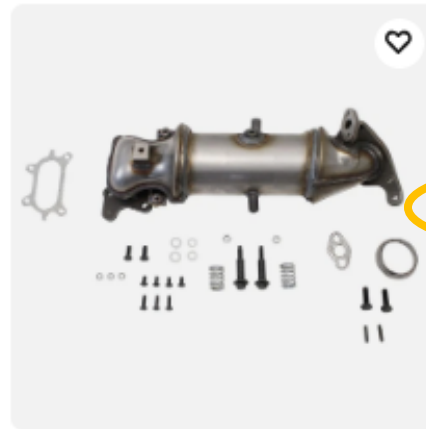
- **In 2023, EPA sued eBay for the selling of >370,000 defeat devices, pesticides and chemicals**
 - In 2024 U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York ruled that sellers of illegal products are immune under section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA)
 - Case # 1:23-cv-07173 // 2024 WL 4350523
- **Seeking help from EPA OECA, Commerce Department and Customs and Border Protection to protect U.S. aftermarket manufacturers and consumers**

Supplemental



U.S. vs non-U.S. product

Specialized Direct Fit Converters



Catalytic Converter For 2010-2011 Honda Civic 1.8L L4 GAS SOHC (For: 2010 Honda Civic)

AP Exhaust Part No. 641322-AJ | FREE SHIPPING!!!

Brand New

\$842.32

Buy It Now

+\$48.98 delivery

Located in United States

Sponsored

Prices from U.S. mfrs start around \$450

OE replacement \$1878

*U.S. mfr / EPA
compliant converter*



Catalytic Converter & Installation Accessories EPA for Honda Civic 2006-11 1.8L (For: 2010 Honda Civic)

Brand New

\$99.57

or Best Offer

+\$23.39 delivery

Located in United States

Save up to 9% when you buy more

Sponsored

Prices as low as \$50

*Non-compliant
non-U.S.
converter*