



## **FAQs for Consumers**

### **“Car Allowance Rebate System”**

*Commonly Known as Cash for Clunkers*

#### **1. What is the goal of the “CARS” program?**

The Car Allowance Rebate System (“CARS”) provides incentives from the U.S. government to owners of older, less fuel-efficient vehicles to trade them in and purchase new, more fuel-efficient ones. The program will benefit American consumers, stimulate showroom traffic and auto sales, and help to reduce fuel use and vehicle emissions. New vehicles are cleaner, more fuel efficient and have many safety technologies not available on older ones.

#### **2. How does the CARS program work?**

An owner of a passenger car, minivan, SUV, or pick-up truck that gets an EPA combined 18 mpg or less can trade it in for a government incentive toward the purchase of a new vehicle. The amount of the incentive is either \$3,500 or \$4,500, depending on the mpg improvement of the new vehicle over the one it replaces.

#### **3. How long will the program last?**

The program will be in effect from July 24 until October 31, 2009 or until the initial \$1 billion in federal funding runs out, whichever occurs earlier. It is uncertain whether Congress will approve additional funding to extend the program. If you are interested in taking advantage of this program, you are advised to do so quickly before the funding runs out.

#### **4. Is there an official government website for the CARS program?**

The program is administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), which has launched a CARS website at [www.cars.gov](http://www.cars.gov). This is the only official site for Cash for Clunkers information. The government also has a Hotline (1-866-CAR-7891) to answer consumer questions. The Hotline is available seven days a week.



## **5. What new Mazda models are eligible for purchase with the government incentive?**

A consumer will qualify for at least a \$3,500 incentive, and in some cases \$4,500, toward the purchase of the following new Mazda models. The size of the incentive depends on the improvement in fuel economy of the new vehicle compared to the vehicle being replaced.

- MAZDA3 i and s
- MAZDA6 i
- MX-5 Miata
- MAZDA5 (Automatically gets \$4,500 incentive)
- CX-7 (2WD and 4WD)
- CX-9 (2WD)
- Tribute
- B2300 truck

## **6. Does the customer need to register for the program or bring a voucher to the dealership?**

The customer does not need a paper voucher and is not required to sign up or enroll in the program. Participating new car dealers will apply a credit, reducing the price paid at the time of purchase for an eligible new vehicle. The dealer will then obtain reimbursement from the government.

## **7. What vehicles are eligible for trade-in under the CARS program?**

The vehicle being traded in must be manufactured no more than 25 years before the date of the transaction. Any vehicle manufactured in 1983 or earlier will not qualify. Some vehicles made in 1984 will qualify, depending on the date of manufacture. The month and year of manufacture appears on the safety certification label located on the frame or edge of the driver's door in most vehicles. The trade-in vehicle must also have a combined (city/hwy.) fuel economy rating of 18 mpg or less.

## **8. How can I tell if my current vehicle meets the fuel economy requirement for trade-in (EPA combined 18 mpg or less)?**

Consumers can check the combined fuel economy ratings of their current vehicles on [www.cars.gov](http://www.cars.gov). Click on the [fueleconomy.gov](http://fueleconomy.gov) tab and select a model year and vehicle make to find the Combined EPA label figures for a given model. The correct mpg number is the one listed as "Estimated New EPA mpg." Your local Mazda dealer would be pleased to assist you in determining whether your vehicle is eligible for trade-in under the CARS program.



**9. Are there other restrictions, such as length of ownership?**

The vehicle must be in drivable condition and have been continuously insured and registered to the same owner for at least one year. “Drivable condition” must be demonstrated by actual operation of the vehicle on public roads by the dealer and by certification by the dealer and the purchaser. The customer needs to bring to a participating Mazda dealer the vehicle title as well as registration and insurance papers showing continuous registration and insurance for the past full year.

**10. What documents are acceptable as proof of registration and insurance?**

Acceptable Proof of Insurance: 1) insurance cards that show the needed dates for one year of coverage immediately prior to the transaction; 2) a policy/statement that shows one year of coverage; or 3) a signed letter on insurance company letterhead stating that the vehicle has been insured for at least one year.

Acceptable Proof of Registration: 1) current state document showing one year of registration; 2) a combination of documents showing one year; or 3) a state registration document and document from a vehicle history provider (Polk, Experian, etc.) that shows one year of registration.

**11. What if there is a lien on my vehicle?**

The title must be free of any liens or other encumbrances. Any liens must be cleared before going to the dealer. This may include evidence on the face of the title showing no lien, that the title has been cleared (signed and stamped accordingly), or with an attached lien release from the lien holder. If a state doesn’t use a title for an older vehicle (GA, ME, RI, VT, NH), a current registration, a bill of sale and no evidence of a lien on the vehicle is acceptable.

**12. Can any make of vehicle be traded in at a Mazda dealer? For example, can an owner trade-in a Chrysler minivan or Chevy Blazer toward a new MAZDA5 or Mazda CX-7?**

Yes. Any make of vehicle can be traded in at any participating Mazda dealer. The incentive amount will be applied as a down-payment or partial payment toward a new Mazda vehicle.

**13. What Mazda models are eligible for trade-in?**

Many older Mazda MPVs, B3000 & B4000 trucks, RX-7s, 929s, Tributes (6-cyl., 4WD) and Navajos have combined fuel economy ratings of 18 mpg or less, making them eligible for the program.



**14. Does the consumer get the trade-in value of the vehicle in addition to the government incentive?**

No. The government incentive is in lieu of the trade-in value. Consumers should choose whichever option benefits them the most.

**15. Is there a price cap on the new vehicles eligible for purchase?**

Yes, the price cap on the vehicle is \$45,000 (MSRP), not including options and delivery charges.

**16. Is the value of the incentive tax-free to the consumer? Yes.**

**17. Is there an income limit that disqualifies certain vehicle owners? No.**

**18. How may I find out which Mazda dealers are participating in the program?**

Virtually all Mazda dealers plan to participate. Go to [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com) to find your closest Mazda dealer.

**19. What are the fuel economy requirements for the new vehicle I can purchase with the incentive?**

For Passenger Cars:

At least 22 mpg (combined) AND  
4-9 mpg improvement over trade-in vehicle, \$3,500  
At least 10 mpg improvement over trade-in vehicle, \$4,500

For SUVs, minivans and light-duty trucks (< 6,000 lbs.):

At least 18 mpg (combined) AND  
2-4 mpg improvement over trade-in vehicle, \$3,500  
At least 5 mpg improvement over trade-in vehicle, \$4,500

**20. May the incentive be used as the down payment on a new Mazda? Yes.**

**21. Can I purchase a used vehicle with the CARS incentive?**

No, only new vehicles are eligible for purchase with the incentive.



**22. How many vehicles will be sold under the program?**

The \$1 billion in funding provided by Congress will cover about 250,000 vehicles.

**23. What happens to the old vehicle once the dealer transfers it to a dismantler or recycler?**

The vehicle will be crushed or dismantled and not re-sold as a vehicle to a consumer.

**24. Can I still qualify for other rebates and discounts?**

Yes, in addition to the government incentive, you are still eligible for any other rebate or discount advertised by the dealer or offered by the Mazda.

**25. Can I trade-in two clunkers and combine two CARS incentives toward the purchase of a new Mazda?**

No. Only one incentive may be applied toward the purchase of a single vehicle.

**26. Can an individual obtain more than one CARS incentive?**

No, each individual and each trade-in vehicle is eligible for only one incentive under this program.

**27. Can a husband and wife who jointly own two vehicles turn them both in and use vouchers for two new vehicles?**

The regulations state that “a person that participates in a transaction for which a credit is issued under the CARS program, whether as a single owner or joint registered owner of either an eligible trade-in vehicle, a new vehicle, or both, may not participate or be named in another transaction for which a credit is issued under the CARS program, either as a registered owner of the trade-in vehicle or as a purchaser of the new vehicle.” The consumer is required to certify that they have not “previously participated in the CARS program.”

**Questions?**

Please contact your local Mazda dealer with any questions and to take advantage of the CARS incentives.

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