

2003 Honda Accord L4-2.4L

Vehicle > Technical Service Bulletins

## CATALYTIC CONVERTER - ROTTEN EGG SMELL

**SOURCE:**

Honda Service News July 2003

**TITLE:**

Rotten Egg Smell? Could Be the Catalytic Converter

**APPLIES TO:**

All Models

**SERVICE TIP:**

Are customers complaining of a rotten egg smell, but you can't find anything wrong with their vehicles to account for it [there's no DTC(s) set, no driveability problems reported, nothing damaged or broken]? Then it could well be coming from the catalytic converter. That smell is a release of built up hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) from the reaction of organic sulfur compounds in the gasoline with the catalyst in the converter.

Almost all gasoline contains some amount of organic sulfur compounds, and that amount varies by region. The more sulfur there is in the gasoline, the more H<sub>2</sub>S is built up and released by the catalytic converter, so the stronger the smell. In California, where low-sulfur gasoline is actually required by state law, sulfur smell complaints are few and far between. The folks at the Environmental Protection Agency have issued a requirement for the phasing-in of low-sulfur gasoline nationwide between 2004 and 2006. This low-sulfur gasoline should go a long way toward making complaints of rotten egg smell a thing of the past.