



Regulatory Announcement

New Emission Standards for Nonroad Diesel Engines

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is setting stringent new emission standards for diesel engines used in a wide range of nonroad construction, agricultural, and industrial equipment and some marine applications. This program reduces the recently implemented first tier of nonroad engine standards by up to two thirds—a major step toward reducing the harmful health effects of ozone and particulate matter (PM) nationwide.

History of Rulemaking

In recent years, EPA was strongly encouraged by states and others to pursue national regulations that would help them address the air quality problems in many parts of the country. Prior to issuing a proposal, EPA engaged in discussion with state environmental regulators, environmental organizations, engine manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, small businesses, and others. One result of this activity was a Statement of Principles signed by EPA, engine manufacturers, and the State of California outlining a framework for potential nonroad diesel emission standards.

Overview Of The Final Rule

The primary feature of this rule is a set of new emission standards for mobile nonroad diesel engines of almost all types. Standards for hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), carbon monoxide, and PM will be

implemented in two tiers over ten years (1999-2008), with different standards and start years for various engine power ratings. By the end of 2001, EPA will reassess the feasibility of the standards and will propose and adopt appropriate new standards for PM.

The final rule covers nonroad diesel engines and equipment such as farm tractors, bulldozers, and forklifts. The rule does not apply to locomotives, marine engines above 50 horsepower (hp), underground mining equipment, and engines with displacements under 50 cubic centimeters per cylinder that are typically used in model airplanes. Likewise, the new standards do not apply to existing nonroad equipment. Only equipment built after the start date for an engine category (1999-2006, depending on the category) is affected by the rule.

The rulemaking is part of a 3-tiered progression to low emission standards. Each tier involves a phase in (by horsepower rating) over several years. Tier 1 standards were adopted in 1994 for engines over 50 hp (such as bulldozers) and are phasing in from 1996 to 2000. This final rule sets Tier 1 standards for engines under 50 hp (such as lawn tractors), phasing in from 1999 to 2000. It also phases in more stringent Tier 2 standards for all engine sizes from 2001 to 2006, and yet more stringent Tier 3 standards for engines rated over 50 hp from 2006 to 2008. The Tier 3 standards that will phase in beginning in 2006 are expected to lead to implementation of control technologies similar to those that will be used by manufacturers of highway heavy-duty engines (i.e., trucks and buses) to

comply with the 2004 highway engine standards.

In addition to the standards, the final rule includes related provisions intended to ensure compliance with the new standards for engines in the field and a program of voluntary standards for engines with superior emissions performance.

Health And Environmental Benefits

The new standards will reduce emissions from a typical nonroad diesel engine by up to two-thirds from the levels of previous standards. By meeting these standards, manufacturers of new nonroad engines and equipment will achieve large reductions in the emissions (especially NO_x and PM) that cause air pollution problems in many parts of the country. EPA estimates that by 2010, NO_x emissions will be reduced by about a million tons per year, the equivalent of taking 35 million passenger cars off the road.

Ozone causes a range of health problems related to breathing, including chest pain, coughing, and shortness of breath. PM becomes deposited deep in the lungs and results in premature death, increased emergency room visits, and increased respiratory symptoms and disease. In addition, ozone, NO_x, and PM adversely affect the environment in various ways, including crop damage, acid rain, and reduction in visibility.

Flexibility for Industry

The final rule has several elements that add flexibility to how manufacturers comply with the standards, reducing the costs of compliance without harming the overall environmental goals of the rule. For example, the standards are designed to phase in over several years with schedules that recognize some engines are technologically closer to compliance than others (e.g., engines similar to highway truck engines). Engine manufacturers may also use averaging provisions in choosing their most efficient path to compliance. The final rule also includes provisions designed to smooth the transition by equipment manufacturers as they begin to install the new engine designs into existing equipment.

In addition, since the new standards are expected to be adopted by the State of California and are consistent with standards being proposed in Europe, manufacturers should be able to use a single engine or machine design for all of these markets, thus avoiding the added cost of multiple versions.

Assisting the States

Because the new standards cover a large and diverse population of nonroad equipment and are expected to achieve very significant, regional-scale emission reductions across the country, implementation of this program will be an important part of the overall control strategies of numerous states and localities grappling with difficult air quality problems.

Cost of the New Program

The costs of meeting the new emission standards are expected to add well under 1 percent to the purchase price of typical new nonroad diesel equipment, although for some equipment the standards may cause price increases on the order of 2 or 3 percent. The program is expected to cost about \$600 per ton of NO_x reduced, which compares very favorably with other emission control strategies.

For More Information

Additional documents on nonroad diesel engine standards are available through the Assessment and Standards Division at asinfo@epa.gov or (734) 214-4636:

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