New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

Compliance Update

Making You Aware of Incentives, Compliance Assistance, and Rule Changes

Compliance and Enforcement | *Issued*: July 2007 | #2007-09

DEP Revises Idling Regulations

Who is affected by this initiative?

All diesel vehicles that are used in New Jersey are subject to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:27-14. These regulations prohibit diesel-powered vehicles from idling for more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion.

What has changed?

The following revisions to the Idling Regulations become effective on July 25, 2007:

Exemptions to 3 minute idling limit REMOVED:

- Diesel vehicles are no longer allowed to idle for up to 30 minutes at an operator's place of business.
- Diesel vehicles are no longer allowed to idle for 15 minutes when a vehicle has been stopped for three or more hours (however, an exemption remains allowing for 15 minutes idling when the ambient temperature is below 25 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Overnight idling of diesel trucks with sleeper berths will not be allowed past May 1, 2010, as several alternatives to idling are now available in New Jersey.

Exemption to 3 minute idling limit ADDED/CLARIFIED:

- Diesel buses may idle for 15 consecutive minutes in a 60-minute period while actively discharging or picking up passengers to allow for passenger comfort.

Why is DEP limiting idling?

As part of a statewide effort to reduce motor vehicle emissions in New Jersey and reach attainment with Air Quality standards, the DEP has revised these regulations to reflect improvements in engine technology. Modern diesel engines require no more than three minutes to "warm up". The idling of vehicles produces a wide variety of air pollutants, including particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, greenhouse gases, formaldehyde and other toxic air pollutants. Some of these air pollutants are known carcinogens. Particulate matter can cause health problems ranging from difficulty in breathing to heart attacks. While the DEP has responded to citizen complaints about idling vehicles for many years now, it is especially important to reduce idling during the warmer months when poor air quality impacts vulnerable parts of the population, such as children, the elderly and people with respiratory or coronary disease.

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In addition to the environmental risks, idling wastes fuel and increases long-term engine maintenance costs. Idling is also an occupational hazard as it exposes drivers to dangerous levels of particulates and other toxins.

What should I do?

- Ensure that vehicles do not idle for more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion. Consider posting a sign on your property if trucks frequently idle at your location. No Idling signs are available from DEP by completing the order form available on www.StopTheSoot.org.
- Adopt a no-idling policy for your fleet drivers and encourage them to do their part. It will save you money and protect their health.
- Explore alternatives to idling, such as engine block heaters for cold weather starts or in-cabin heaters.

Whom should I contact with questions or complaints?

DEP 24-hour Hotline – for reporting suspected violations	**1-877-WARN-DEP**
DEP Diesel Risk Reduction Program -- for general questions	**609-292-7953**
Northern Field Office for complaints in: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties	**973-656-4444**
Central Field Office for complaints in: Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union counties	**609-584-4100**
Southern Field Office for complaints in: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties	**856-614-3601**

The following web sites can be accessed for additional information regarding this advisory:

Idling Information:	www.stopthesoot.org
Air Regulations:	
Subchapter 14 Control and Prohibition of Air Pollution from Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicles	http://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqm/Subchapter14-EffectiveJuly2,2007Disc.pdf
Current Rules in Effect	http://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqm/rules.html
Air Enforcement:	http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/air.html

Visit the following Web site for general information:

Contact NJDEP:	http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl
To comment on this advisory:	http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the DEP numbers listed above.