



COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
August 2008

Commercial Diesel Truck Idling –(Revised)

With few exceptions, current California law prohibits commercial diesel trucks from idling more than 5 minutes within the State. This applies to commercial trucks over a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds. Also prohibited is idling of sleeper berth trucks for more than 5 minutes. Diesel-fueled auxiliary power systems (APS) may not be idled more than 5 minutes within 100 feet of a school or residential area. In addition, school buses must shut off their engine immediately when stopped within 100 feet of a school and may only restart 30 seconds prior to departing.

Unnecessary idling results in significant excess air pollution and will delay the valley's effort to improve air quality. All sectors need to do their part to help improve our air quality and by complying with the idling rules, air quality in the San Joaquin Valley will improve. Diesel emissions are also toxic, and reducing these emissions will reduce deleterious health effects for the public.

Beginning September 2008, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will begin inspecting truck stops and other areas where trucks frequent to ensure that idling is complying with State law. In partnership with the California Air Resources Board (ARB), enforcement action will be taken against the driver of the truck. The District encompasses the eight counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern.

As mentioned above, there are situations when idling is allowed. They are as follows:

- When delayed in traffic
- When inspecting or servicing the truck
- When operating a power take-off (PTO)
- When movement is prohibited due to adverse weather or mechanical failure
- In emergency situations
- When queuing (must be beyond 100 feet from any residential area)
- If the truck meets the optional NO_x idling emission standard and the truck is located beyond 100 feet from any residential area*
- When a school bus must keep the heater or air conditioner on for the safety or health of the passengers

** A special hood label is required for any truck that meets the optional NO_x idling emission standard and idles for longer than five minutes*

For more information about idling requirements, including more exemptions, please visit www.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/atcm-to-limit-vehicle-idling or call the California Air Resources Board at 1-800-242-4450. You may also call the local offices of the District at the numbers below.