



MONTEREY BAY
Unified Air Pollution Control District
serving Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties

SUBJECT: PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR DIESEL ENGINES

This summary contains the basic permit requirements and emission limitations for diesel engines operated within Monterey, Santa Cruz, or San Benito Counties.

Emergency/Standby Diesel Engines Serving

Emergency/Standby diesel engines are defined as emergency electrical generators and water pumps used only when normal utility powerline service fails or in the event of an involuntary power interruption or unforeseen disruption in utility service planned by the local utility. These units are limited to 60 hours per year of operation for test/exercise purposes, and may be stationary or portable. Stationary diesel engines may be subject to more restrictive limitations on operation for test/exercise purposes imposed by the California Code of Regulations Title 17 Section 93115 – Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines (Stationary Diesel ATCM). New emergency/standby diesel engines are limited to no more than 50 hours for test/exercise purposes by the Stationary Diesel ATCM.

Permit Requirements For Diesel Engines

Any diesel engine with a rating of 50 hp or greater requires a District permit. Portable engines that are registered under California Code of Regulations Title 13, Article 5, Sections 2450 through 2465 (Portable Equipment Registration Program – PERP) may be exempt from District permits unless the engine is used with stationary equipment that requires a District permit, remains at one location for more than one year or is associated with a Stationary Source operating under a Title V permit.

Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for Diesel Engines

BACT is required for any new engine with a maximum daily potential to emit NO_x that exceeds 25 pounds per day. An engine with emission less than 25 pounds per day may also be subject to BACT if the facility emissions exceed 150 pounds per day NO_x. The determination of BACT applicability for diesel engines is directly related to the emission factors used to calculate potential emission impacts. In the event that emission factors and operating scenarios are unavailable for the subject diesel engine, NO_x emission factors of 14 gm/Hp-hr or 469 lb/1000 gallons of fuel and 24 hours per day of operation are generally used. If a NO_x emission factor of 469 lb/1000 gallons of fuel is used, then 53 gallons per day of diesel fuel usage would equate to the 25 pound per day NO_x BACT trigger level.

Diesel Engine Emission Limitations

BACT for a emergency/standby diesel engine has been deemed to be a NOx emission rating of no greater than 6.9 gm/Hp-hr or the more stringent limit contained in the Stationary Diesel ATCM. In addition, for engines subject to the Stationary Diesel ATCM particulate emissions for a emergency/standby diesel engine shall be no greater than 0.15 gm/Hp-hr and particulate emissions for diesel engines other than emergency/standby engines shall be no greater than 0.01 gm/Hp-hr.

Please contact the Engineering Division at (831) 647-9411 with any questions

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