



New
Jersey
Department of
Environmental
Protection

ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

Compliance Alert

Making You Aware of Anticipated Enforcement Activities

Compliance and Enforcement

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DEP Targets Idling Vehicles at Schools, Transportation Centers and Retail Outlets

Who is affected by this initiative?

Owners/operators of school buses, taxis and other vehicles at transportation centers such as train and bus stations and grocery/retail stores are affected. Respective property owners of these types of transportation centers are affected as well.

Why is DEP targeting idling vehicles?

Idling vehicles are being targeted as part of a statewide effort to implement measures to reduce motor vehicle emissions in New Jersey. Regulations prohibit diesel-powered and gasoline-powered vehicles from idling for more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion (N.J.A.C. 7:27-14 and 15). Idling produces a wide variety of air pollutants, including particulates, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, 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. 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. The vehicles and areas specifically being targeted directly affect these sensitive populations, and have garnered many complaints, particularly from those who live and work near retail stores, transportation centers, schools, and loading zones. In addition to the environmental risks, idling vehicles unnecessarily consume fuel and increase long-term engine maintenance costs. Idling is also an occupational hazard as it exposes drivers to dangerous levels of particulates and other toxins.

What is DEP doing?

The Department, in coordination with county health agencies and local police, will be targeting various types of diesel-powered and gasoline-powered vehicles, as well as locations at which vehicles have been reported to be idling past the limit. Inspectors will target bus staging areas, convenience stores, airports, bus and train stations, grocery and retail centers, schools, and loading/unloading areas to ensure that all vehicles are complying with all applicable regulations. Residents can call the DEP 24-hour hotline (1-877-WARN-DEP) to register suspected violations of the idling standards. The Department will respond aggressively to all resident complaints with the help of the local environmental health agencies throughout the state. Failure to comply with the idling standards will result in enforcement actions and civil administrative penalty assessments for the property owner and the vehicle operator, starting at \$200 per day.

ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

What should I do?

- Ensure that vehicles do not idle for more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion (some allowable exceptions to this requirement are noted in the following two bullet points). 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.
- Ensure that diesel-powered motor vehicles at the vehicle operator's place of business (i.e., home base) do not idle except when absolutely necessary, but never for more than 30 consecutive minutes.
- Ensure that diesel-powered motor vehicles that are not located at the operator's place of business do not idle except when absolutely necessary. These vehicles are permitted to idle for a maximum of 15 minutes if the vehicle engine has been stopped for three or more hours.
- 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	609-292-3600
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

Visit the following Web sites for additional information regarding this advisory:

Diesel Risk Reduction Program: www.stopthesoot.org

Air Pollution Control Rules: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/agm/rules.htm>

Idling Reduction Technologies: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/smartway/idlingtechnologies.htm>

Visit the following Web site for general information:

Contact NJDEP: <http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl>

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