



## **DEP Regulations Delayed Until May 1, 2011 to Allow Idling of Trucks with Sleeper Berths**

### **What has occurred?**

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:27-14 prohibit diesel-powered vehicles from idling for more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion, with limited exemptions including N.J.A.C. 7:27-14.3 (b)6, which allows drivers to idle their diesel vehicles while resting or sleeping in a sleeper berth. This exemption was scheduled to expire on May 1, 2010; however, the DEP has delayed the expiration of this exemption for one year. Therefore, drivers can idle their diesel vehicles while resting or sleeping in a sleeper berth until May 1, 2011. No further extensions of this deadline will be given.

### **Why is DEP targeting idling trucks?**

The idling of diesel-powered vehicles produces a wide variety of air pollutants, including fine 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. 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. In fact, the number of premature deaths in New Jersey each year caused by exposure to fine particulates exceeds the number of deaths from homicides and motor vehicle accidents.

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 fine particulates and other toxins.

### **What are the alternatives to idling?**

The DEP proposed the phase-out of sleeper berth idling in 2007, but delayed implementation for approximately three years to allow for the development of alternatives to idling and is delaying implementation for one additional year. While approximately 75 percent of long-haul drivers are currently using one of the following three options available to them, the purpose of this extension is to give the remaining drivers time to find alternatives.

- Over the past three years, the DEP and its partners have funded and built truck stop electrification sites in Paulsboro, Bordentown and the Vince Lombardi Rest Area of the N.J. Turnpike (scheduled to open late summer, 2010). Additional truck-stop electrification is available in Columbia, N.J. and at several locations in surrounding states.
- Another alternative to idling is the use of auxiliary power units or systems (APUs), including generator sets and bunk heaters. With the main engine of the truck shut off, you are allowed to run APUs

# COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

to power the sleeper berth (N.J.A.C. 7:27-14.3(b)8). The DEP and its partners have funded \$1.3 million toward APU purchase and installation and more than half of all long-haul trucks in the U.S. are currently equipped with APUs.

- Finally, any model year truck that is equipped with a diesel particulate filter that is connected and properly functioning is allowed to idle while the driver is resting or sleeping in a sleeper berth in a non-residential area. Trucks with model year 2007 or newer engines are sold with diesel particulate filters as original equipment.

## What is DEP doing?

During the next year, the DEP will provide outreach to trucking organizations and notify truckers of the availability of loans and grants to purchase APUs through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program called Smartway (see <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/transport/what-smartway/financing.htm> ).

Beginning May 1, 2011, DEP inspectors will target truck stops, rest areas and warehouse distribution centers to ensure that diesel-powered vehicles are complying with all applicable regulations. We also will respond aggressively to resident complaints with the help of the local environmental health agencies throughout the state. Residents can call the DEP 24-hour hotline (1-877-WARN-DEP) to register suspected violations of the idling standards. 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 \$250 per day.

## What should I do?

Carefully review the following general guidelines to ensure compliance but please refer to the regulations at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/aqm/rules.htm> for a comprehensive list of the requirements.

- Explore alternatives to idling, such as the use of auxiliary power units, truck stop electrification and the purchase of 2007 compliant engines with diesel particulate filters.
- Ensure that diesel-powered vehicles do not idle for more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion.
- 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.
- Property owners may consider posting No Idling signs (order forms available at [www.StopTheSoot.org](http://www.StopTheSoot.org) ) on your property if trucks frequently idle at your location.

## Whom should I contact with questions or complaints?

<b>DEP 24-hour Hotline – for reporting suspected violations</b>	<b>1-877-WARN-DEP</b>
<b>DEP Diesel Risk Reduction Program -- for general questions</b>	<b>609-292-7953</b>
<b>Northern Field Office for complaints in:</b> Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties	<b>973-656-4444</b>
<b>Central Field Office for complaints in:</b> Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union counties	<b>609-292-3187</b>
<b>Southern Field Office for complaints in:</b> Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties	<b>856-614-3601</b>

# COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

## Where can I get more information?

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

Idling Information: [www.StopTheSoot.org](http://www.StopTheSoot.org)

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 Enforcement numbers listed above.