

Frequently Asked Questions In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation

On-rail Equipment and Locomotives FAQ Revised May 2011

Q - Is on-rail equipment subject to the off-road regulation?

A - On-rail equipment that can only be used on stationary rails or tracks is exempt from the requirements of the regulation, including reporting and labeling, because such equipment are not considered to be vehicles under California law. (See Vehicle Code § 670.). However, on-rail vehicles, which have tires or mounted tracks, that allow the vehicle to be used off of stationary rails or tracks are included within the off-road diesel regulation.

For example, the trackmobile, sweeper, and the wheel crane in the pictures below have rubber tires which allow them to be driven off of the rail, **and are therefore subject to the off-road diesel regulation.**



Track Mobile



Wheel Crane



Rail Sweeper

While this document is intended to assist fleets with their compliance efforts, it is the sole responsibility of fleets to ensure compliance with the In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation.

The tamper, flatbed rail transportation equipment, and rail sweepers below do not have tires or a mounted track that allows them to be operated off of stationary rails or tracks, and **are therefore exempt from the off-road diesel regulation.**

Note: the equipment below are not exempt because of their function, but rather because they operate exclusively on stationary rails or tracks.



Tamper



Rail Sweeper and Grader



Rail Sweeper and Salvage



Flat-bed or Bucket Rail Transport

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Locomotives, such as those shown below, are also **not** part of the off-road diesel regulation.



Q - What about equipment mounted on a railcar?

A - For excavators, cranes, or other off-road diesel vehicles which are permanently modified and mounted to a rail car that can only be used on rail, the off-road diesel regulation does not apply.

If the diesel engine does not provide propulsive power to the rail car, even if the car could be used off-road, the off-road diesel regulation does not apply.

Q – What if the on-rail equipment operates at a port or intermodal rail yard?

A - Rubber-tired on-rail equipment operating at a port or intermodal rail yard for the purposes of handling cargo or for performing routine or predictable maintenance or repair activities is not covered by the off-road diesel regulation and is instead subject to ARB's cargo handling equipment regulation. More information is available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cargo>.

This clarification regarding the inclusion of rail vehicles, those which can also be used off-road, will not change the applicability of any vehicles or equipment subject to the cargo handling regulation, and will not cause the off-road diesel regulation to apply to these vehicles if they are covered by the cargo handling equipment regulation.

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