



Regulatory Advisory

September 2012



Mail-Out #MSC 12-21

Truck and Bus Regulation –Annual PM Filter Compliance Extension for Cranes for Calendar Year 2013

The Air Resources Board (ARB) has approved a one year extension (for calendar year 2013) from the particulate matter (PM) filter requirements for certain types of cranes that are subject to the Truck and Bus regulation (regulation), title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR), section 2025.

Background

The Truck and Bus regulation requires diesel truck and bus owners to take steps to reduce their engine emissions. Nearly all trucks and buses with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds that operate in California are required to be upgraded to reduce exhaust emissions between 2012 to 2023. To comply with these requirements, fleet owners can upgrade existing engines by installing PM filters that are Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategies (VDECS) approved by the ARB, or by upgrading to cleaner engines or vehicles. The regulation allows for the Executive Officer to grant an annual PM filter extension per sections 2025(p)(9) and 2025(q)(5) if all VDECS that are available for a properly operating engine are not compatible with the engine, do not fit in available space, or cannot be safely operated on the vehicle. The regulation is a part of the State's plan to meet federal ambient air quality standards and to protect public health.

Basis for Extension

Crane operators have expressed concern that installation of PM filter retrofits on crane engines may conflict with existing crane certification requirements, and could present safety concerns. Modifications to cranes require manufacturer or a registered professional engineer who is familiar with the equipment to review and approve any modifications to the crane, and may require modifications to load charts, procedures, instruction manuals and other items as needed.

ARB staff is working with crane operators, crane manufacturers, and other organizations to investigate and understand these issues and how best to determine which PM filter retrofits can be done safely. The extension will allow additional time to collect necessary data that can be used to determine how safety and feasibility concerns should be addressed for cranes.

Extension Applicability

This extension applies to all cranes that must be operated by a licensed crane operator where the crane is certified as power-operated equipment that can hoist, lower and horizontally move a suspended load. The extension does not apply to truck mounted derricks, sideboom cranes, loader cranes, knuckle-boom cranes, or truck mounted equipment rated at 2,000 pounds or less.

Owners do not need to apply separately for an extension of affected vehicles for the 2013 compliance year but should keep a copy of this notice in the cab of the vehicle. This PM filter extension expires December 31, 2013, and cranes will need to meet the 2014 compliance requirements. If no verified PM filter retrofit is available for a properly operating engine for the 2014 compliance year, the owner will need to apply for an extension before September 1, 2013.

General Information on PM Filter Availability and Extensions

Section 2025(p)(9) identifies how to apply for an annual extension from the PM filter requirement for the vehicle. If a vehicle cannot be operated safely with a retrofit PM filter installed, then the criteria of section 2025(q)(5) must be met. Other vehicles in the fleet must still be equipped with PM filters by applicable compliance deadlines in order to meet any appropriate compliance requirements. Any engine that cannot be retrofitted by January 1, 2018, must be replaced.

Contacts for Additional Information

You can obtain additional information, at www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck, or you may call 866-6DIESEL (866-634-3735), or by email at 8666diesel@arb.ca.gov.