

# Truck and Bus Regulation Low-Use Vehicle Exemption

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On December 12, 2008, the California Air Resources Board (ARB/Board) approved the Truck and Bus regulation to significantly reduce particulate matter, or PM, and oxides of nitrogen emissions from existing diesel vehicles operating in California. School buses have different low-use requirements.

## **What is the low-use vehicle exemption?**

Vehicle owners to identify which vehicles will meet the annual mileage limits and will be exempt from PM filter or engine-upgrade requirements in any calendar year.

## **What vehicles qualify for the low-use exemption?**

This option applies to vehicles that travel less than 5,000 miles per year, including vehicles with non-op registration that are not operated. A vehicle that travels more than 5,000 miles annually can still be reported for the low-use vehicle exemption as long as it operates less than 1,000 miles within California each year. Starting January 1, 2020, the 5,000 mile limit will expire, but the 1,000 mile a year limit will still remain an option.. The low-use option allows the vehicle to be exempt from PM filter and engine replacement requirements. Annual odometer reporting is required.

## **Can I use the low-use exemption for a two-engine street sweeper?**

Yes. A street sweeper with two engines may use the low-use exemption like other trucks if it meets the low-use mileage limit for the drive engine, with one exception. Tier 0 auxiliary engines cannot operate their Power Take-off System (PTO) more than 100 hours per year starting January 1, 2014, and their usage must be reported. Vehicle owners must report their annual odometer reading and keep required records.

## **How do I take advantage of the low-use vehicle exemption?**

Each January you can designate which trucks will use the low-use exemption for the year. You must report vehicle information and odometer readings by January 31 of the compliance year or within 30 days of purchasing a vehicle. You must also report end of year odometer readings and when the vehicle is sold to demonstrate the vehicle met the mileage limits. You must also keep records of odometer readings, vehicle purchases, and sales.

## **I travel in and out of California, how can I qualify for the low-use exemption?**

If you travel less than 1,000 miles per year in California, you will need to report odometer readings like other fleets; however, you will also need to track and report the total miles traveled outside of California. The miles traveled outside California are subtracted from the total miles operated when determining compliance. Fleet owners must keep documentation of the miles travelled inside and outside California, like International Registration Plan records, fuel tax records, or other documentation.

## **Will I be asked to provide mileage records?**

If you are requesting to claim the low-use exemption after a gap in compliance for the vehicle, you must provide documentation prior to being considered eligible to use the option. You must keep mileage records to document travel inside and outside California borders, and emergency miles to support reported miles traveled. Documentation accepted includes but is not limited to Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) test results, BIT inspection records, and third party maintenance records.

## **How do miles traveled for emergency use count when using the low-use extension?**

The mileage accrued in support of an emergency event does not count towards the usage limits of the low-use exemption. Emergency events include wild fires, floods, and other natural disasters where the vehicle was dispatched by a local, state, or federal agency. Emergency use includes miles travelled to and from an emergency event, and delivery of services or supplies in connection with the emergency

event. The vehicle owner must report the miles the vehicle was used to support emergency events for any vehicle that exceed the annual limits.

**Can I claim the low-use exemption if my odometer is not functioning?**

No, you cannot claim a mileage base extension without a properly functioning odometer. If the odometer does not operate, you must use a hub-odometer that has a unique serial number, and has a lock-out feature that permanently prevents tampering. The serial number must be reported if a hub- odometer is used.

**What happens if I go over the mileage limit for a vehicle using the low-use exemption?**

Vehicles that have exceeded the low use mileage threshold are no longer eligible to use any flexibly option in the regulation. Additionally, the vehicle will need to be brought into immediate compliance with the engine model year schedule by either retrofitting or replacing the vehicle depending on the model year of the engine in the vehicle.

**How do I determine what action to take to bring my fleet into compliance, especially if I use different flexibility options?**

The Truck and Bus Fleet Calculator is an Excel spreadsheet that you can use on your own computer to help you evaluate various compliance strategies and upcoming compliance deadlines.. The calculator allows you to determine compliance with one or more options in the regulation and your fleet information can be uploaded directly from your Truck Regulation Upload Compliance and Reporting System (TRUCRS) The calculator is located at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/compliancetool.htm>

**Where can I get more information?**

Fact sheets, compliance tools and regulatory documents about the Truck and Bus Regulation are available at [www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck](http://www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck). If you have questions or wish to obtain this document in an alternative format or language, please call ARB's diesel hotline at (866) 6DIESEL (634-3735). TTY/TDD/ Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.