

Truck and Bus Regulation NOx Exempt Area Extensions

Last Updated: November 30, 2018



This summary describes compliance options for vehicles that are operated solely within defined NOx Exempt Areas in California. These options do not apply to school buses. This summary has been updated to reflect the voided 2014 amendments.

What options are available for vehicles that operate in areas of California with cleaner air?

Vehicles that operate exclusively in areas defined as NOx Exempt Areas and have a PM filter installed do not need to be replaced. Each January, or within 30 days of purchasing a vehicle, owners must report fleet information and to identify which vehicles will operate in NOx Exempt Areas to take advantage of the extensions.

What parts of the State are defined as NOx Exempt Areas

The following counties (shown in the darkly shaded areas) make up the NOx Exempt Areas: Alpine, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Northern Sonoma, Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba.

More detailed maps for split counties are available at www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/documents/NOxSplit.pdf.

If I installed a PM filter on my NOx Exempt vehicle, am I still restricted to operate exclusively in NOx Exempt areas?

Vehicles with 1996 to 2006 model year engines that have a PM filter (OEM or retrofit) may operate throughout California until replacement is required per the Engine Model Year schedule. Once replacement is required, a vehicle with a PM filter will be exempt from the replacement requirement if the vehicle does not leave the NOx areas and is reported. Any vehicle already required to be replaced per the Engine Model Year schedule requirements (such as lighter vehicles or heavier vehicles with 1995 and older model year engines) must already have a PM filter and remain exclusively in the NOx Exempt areas. You will need to report your vehicle as "NOx Exempt with a PM Filter".



Are there any labeling requirements?

Yes, vehicles that are designated as NOx Exempt, must be labeled on the left and right door with the letters "NE" in three inch white block letters on a five inch by eight inch black background, unless the owner chooses to comply by using a vehicle location tracking system. The labels must be in clear view at all times. ARB will not issue the label.

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. 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.