

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

Telling if Your Vehicle is Off-road

Q – I have a vehicle that could be considered on-road. How do I tell if it is subject to the off-road regulation?

A – The In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation applies to self-propelled vehicles with diesel engines 25 horsepower or greater used in California that were designed for off-road use. For most off-road vehicles (a.k.a. machines, or equipment) such as scrapers, backhoes, loaders, and forklifts, it is obvious they were designed to be used only off-road and would therefore be subject to this regulation. However, there are some vehicle types where the on-road/off-road distinction is less clear. (As described further in the applicability guidance at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/faq/applicabilityfaq.pdf>, there are also special provisions that apply to vehicles used for emergency operations, vehicles used for snow removal, and vehicles which are low-use.)

If you have questions about your vehicle, you can figure out if it's covered by the off-road regulation by answering the following questions in order:

1. Is the vehicle self-propelled, i.e., does its engine provide motive power, with a diesel-powered engine 25 horsepower (hp) or greater?

If the answer is **no**, the vehicle is **not** covered by the off-road regulation. So, for example, portable generators and compressors are not covered. Gasoline- and propane vehicles are not covered. Vehicles with engines smaller than 25 hp are not covered. If **yes**, go to question 2.

2. Is the vehicle used 100 percent of the time for agricultural operations,¹ or is it a recreational vehicle or an implement of husbandry?²

¹ For an explanation of what constitutes agricultural operations, see guidance at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/guidance/ag-operations.pdf>. Vehicles used over half the time for agricultural operations are exempt from the performance requirements of the regulation but still must be reported and labeled.

² Implements of husbandry are defined in the California Vehicle Code (VC) Division 16. Off-highway vehicles are defined per California VC Division 16.5 and include off-road motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, sand buggies, etc.

If the answer is **yes**, the vehicle is **not** covered by the off-road regulation. If **no**, go to question 3.

3. Was the vehicle designed for on-road use?³

If the answer is **no**, your vehicle is covered by the off-road regulation. The regulation covers vehicles designed for off-road use, even if they have been modified so they can be registered for use on-road. For example, a wheel loader with an off-road engine that gathers yard waste from streets and that has been modified and plated for on-road use would still be covered by the off-road regulation.

If the answer is **yes**, go to question 3a.

3a. Is the vehicle a work-over rig, i.e. a self-propelled rig used to perform one or more remedial operations on oil and gas wells?

If the answer is **yes**, your vehicle is covered by the off-road regulation. Even though work-over rigs were designed to be driven on-road, they are covered by the off-road regulation. If **no**, go to question 3b.

3b. Is the vehicle a two-engine crane?

If the answer is **yes**, your vehicle is covered by the off-road regulation. Both engines of two-engine cranes will be covered by the off-road regulation. Single engine cranes originally designed for on-road use are not covered. If **no**, go to question 4.

4. Is the vehicle a yard truck?

If the answer is **yes**, see the yard truck guidance at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/faq/faqyardtrucks.pdf> to determine if the off-road regulation applies. If **no**, the vehicle is **not** covered by the off-road regulation.

Q – What are some examples of off-road vehicles?

A – Some of the most common equipment types covered by the off-road regulation, in alphabetical order, include the following:

- Aerial lifts
- Aircraft tugs

- Backhoes
- Baggage tugs
- Belt loaders
- Cargo loaders
- Crawler tractors (bulldozers or dozer)
- Excavators
- Forklifts
- Graders
- Loaders
- Rollers
- Rough terrain forklifts
- Rubber tired loaders
- Scrapers
- Skid steer loaders
- Snow blowers
- Tractors
- Trenchers
- Workover rigs (oil and gas)

The photographs below show some common examples of off-road vehicles.



Aerial Lift



Aircraft Tug

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.



Backhoe Loader



Carry Deck Crane



Crawler Crane



Crawler Drill



Concrete Saw

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.



Dozer



Mast Forklift



Mini-Excavator



Off-road Sweeper



Off-Road Truck

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.



Rough Terrain Crane



Scraper



Skid Steer Loader



Snow Blower



Stump Grinder



Sweeper/Broom

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.



Telescopic Forklift



Two-engine Crane



Two-engine crane

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.



Water Pull (Water tug)



Wheel Loader

Q – What are some examples of on-road vehicles that could be mistaken for off-road vehicles covered by the off-road regulation?

A – The photographs below show some types of vehicles that were designed for on-road use and thus are not covered by the off-road regulation. These on-road vehicles would instead be covered by the Truck and Bus regulation. For more information on that regulation, please see our website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck>.



Water Truck



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.



Water Truck



Drill Rig



Wheeled Excavator

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.