

Frequently Asked Questions

In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation

Specialty Vehicles FAQ

August 2013

Q – What is a specialty vehicle?

A – In the Off-Road Regulation, a specialty vehicle is defined as a vehicle for which no used vehicle with a cleaner engine is available that can serve the same function and perform equivalent work.

Q – How are specialty vehicles treated differently in the Off-Road Regulation?

A – Specialty vehicles are included in fleet calculations, such as fleet size and fleet averages. However, they may be exempt from the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements if they meet all of the following criteria:

- The fleet has turned over all other vehicles first;
- No repower (replacement with a cleaner engine) is available for the specialty vehicle, as demonstrated to the Air Resources Board's Executive Officer (EO);
- A used vehicle with a cleaner engine is not available to serve an equivalent function and perform the work equivalent to that of the specialty vehicle, as demonstrated to the EO; and
- The specialty vehicle has the highest level PM VDECS installed, if available.

Q – How can a vehicle qualify for the specialty vehicle designation?

A – To qualify for the specialty vehicle designation, a fleet must apply for and receive approval from the Air Resources Board's Executive Officer. An application is available in the Knowledge Center at http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/documents/doors/form_specialtyveh.pdf.

In order to complete the application, the fleet must:

- Justify why the vehicle should be considered a specialty vehicle;
- Certify that they have completed a thorough search for a used vehicle that can serve the same function and perform equivalent work as the specialty vehicle; and
- Provide signed statements from at least two independent vehicle dealers stating that no cleaner engines are available to install in the specialty vehicle.

While this document is intended to assist fleets with their compliance efforts, it does not alter or modify the terms of any ARB regulation, nor does it constitute legal advice. It is the sole responsibility of fleets to ensure compliance with the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation.

Q – What happens after I receive approval from the Executive Officer?

A – After the specialty vehicle application is approved by the EO, ARB staff will designate the vehicle as a specialty vehicle in DOORS. However, before the BACT exemption is applied, the vehicle must meet all of the criteria listed on page 1.

Q – Do I have to re-apply for my specialty vehicle designation each year?

A – Yes, because the used vehicle market changes and new engines become available every year, fleets must re-apply for the specialty vehicle designation each year.

Q – Should I apply for the specialty vehicle designation even if I'm not seeking a BACT exemption (or if my vehicle does not qualify for the BACT exemption)?

A – No, because specialty vehicles are treated the same as all other vehicles subject to the performance requirements of the Off-Road Regulation, the only reason to apply for the specialty vehicle designation is to receive a BACT exemption.

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