CARB Diesel-Fueled Commercial Motor Vehicle Idling Regulation

What is it?
The Diesel-Fueled Commercial Motor Vehicle Idling Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) was adopted by the California Air Resource Board (CARB) to limit the idling of diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles to reduce diesel emissions.

What vehicles are covered?
The idling regulations apply to diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles that weigh greater than 10,000 pounds and operate in California, regardless of the state or country in which the vehicles are registered.

What's required?
On or after February 1, 2005, the driver of a > 10,000 pound diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicle:
- shall not idle the vehicle's primary diesel engine for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location; and
- shall not idle the vehicle’s diesel-fueled auxiliary power system (APS) for more than 5 minutes to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on the vehicle if it has a sleeper berth and is within 100 feet of a restricted area (homes and schools).

Note: CARB is currently proposing to require all new 2008 and subsequent model-year heavy-duty diesel engines in trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating > 14,000 pounds to be equipped with a non-programmable engine shutdown system that automatically shuts down the engine after five minutes of continuous idling. However, the engine shutdown system may be overridden to allow the engine to run continuously at idle if the engine is operating in power take-off (PTO) mode. These amendments will be considered for adoption at the October 21-21, 2005 CARB Board meeting.

When is idling allowed?
Idling is allowed under the following circumstances:
- A bus idling for up to 10 minutes prior to passenger boarding, or when passengers are onboard
- Idling of the main engine during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth beyond 100 feet from any restricted area (homes and schools)
- Idling when the vehicle must remain motionless due to traffic conditions
- Idling when the vehicle is queuing that at all times is beyond 100 feet from any restricted area (homes and schools)
- Idling to verify safe operating condition
- Idling is mandatory for testing, servicing, repairing, or diagnostic purposes
- Idling when positioning or providing power for equipment or operations, which involve a power take off or equivalent mechanism and is powered by the primary engine for:
  - controlling cargo temperature, operating a lift, crane, pump, drill, hoist, mixer (such as a ready mix concrete truck), or other auxiliary equipment;
  - providing mechanical extension to perform work functions for which the vehicle was designed and where substitute alternate means to idling are not reasonably available; or
  - collection of solid waste or recyclable material by an entity authorized by contract, license, or permit by a school or local government
- Idling when operating defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency
- Idling by authorized emergency vehicles
- Idling of military tactical vehicles during periods of training

What are the penalties for non-compliance?
The driver of the vehicle is subject to a minimum civil penalty of $100 and to criminal penalties as specified in the Health and Safety Code.

Questions?

CARB website link for current regulations: http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/hdvidle/hdvidle.htm
CARB website link for proposed amendments: http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/hdvidle/hdvidle.htm
For enforcement or compliance questions, please contact Renae Hankins: rhanink@arb.ca.gov (916) 322-8275
Regulation reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Chapter 10, 2485