IDLE REDUCTION

HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

Save money, breathe better

Unnecessary idling wastes fuel, costs money and pollutes the air. That's why a North Carolina rule requires operators of heavy-duty vehicles to reduce unnecessary idling. The rule is part of the state's efforts to reduce air pollution, protect public health and meet more stringent federal air quality standards. The rule was developed with input from truckers, shipping companies and other stakeholders.

Operators could save a lot of fuel and money by complying with the idle rule. A heavy-duty vehicle typically burns about one gallon of fuel per hour while idling. The N.C. Division of Air Quality (DAQ) estimates the idle-reduction rule will save up to 9 million gallons of fuel per year statewide.

Idling vehicles are significant sources of air pollution. DAQ estimates the rule will reduce nitrogen oxide, or NOx emissions, the primary cause of ozone pollution, by up to 1,300 tons per year statewide. The rule could reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas, by as much as 100,000 tons per year. Exhaust from idling vehicles also contains fine particles and toxic air pollutants

A truck that idles unnecessarily 100 hours a month could waste $3,600 worth of diesel fuel a year with prices at $3.00 per gallon.

that can pose health risks for truckers and other people at highway rest areas, truck stops and other places where vehicles idle.

Who must reduce idling?

The idle-reduction rule applies to on-road gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles with loaded weights greater than 10,000 pounds (gross vehicle weight rating). Under the rule, operators should not idle their vehicles more than five consecutive minutes in any 60-minute period except for certain cases dealing with safety, health or economic concerns.

The rule makes allowances for cases when idling may be necessary. For example, operators of vehicles such as fire trucks can idle while responding to emergencies or during training exercises. Heavy-duty vehicles can idle when it's necessary to operate equipment that depends on their engines, such as hoists and refrigerators. ***For a complete list of exemptions, see the back cover of this brochure.***

How can you reduce idling?

The easiest way to reduce idling is simply to turn off your engine. However, DAQ recognizes that vehicle operators often idle their engines for good reasons, such as providing power for air conditioners, refrigerators and other equipment. Drivers can avoid much idling by stopping at truck stops that provide electricity, shore power and other services.

Another alternative is to install idle-reduction equipment such as auxiliary power units (APUs) to provide the electricity needed to run heaters, air conditioners and other needs. Such equipment can range in cost from about $2,500 to $10,000 to install, but fuel and wear-and-tear savings from reduced idling should save money in the long run.

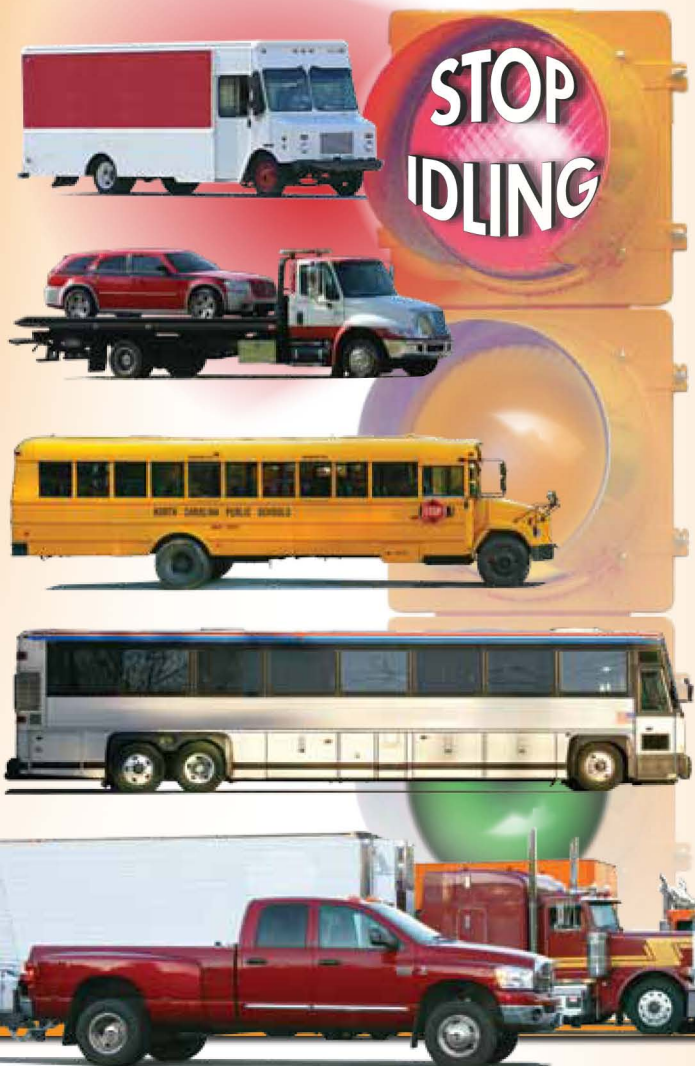
DAQ estimates that the fuel and wear-and-tear savings from reduced idling would offset costs of installing APUs and other idle-reduction equipment in about one to two years for most vehicles, depending on fuel prices.

Contact the DAQ about possible grants or funding opportunities to help pay for installing APUs and other idle-reduction equipment. DAQ also can provide "Turn Off Your Engine" signs for businesses, truck stops and other facilities to install. To obtain signs or other information about idle reduction, please visit this web page: ***www.ncair.org/motor/idle/***

For phone, mailing address or e-mail contact information, see back cover of brochure.

Enforcement

DAQ is focusing on education and outreach to achieve compliance with the idle-reduction rule for heavy-duty vehicles. However, as with any air quality rule, DAQ has the authority to levy fines. The division anticipates that most enforcement actions would be complaint-driven. Residents can report suspected cases of unnecessary idling to the DAQ; see contact information at end of brochure.



Exemptions

Heavy-duty vehicles exempted from the idling rule (15A NCAC 02D .1010) include:

Vehicles idling due to traffic signals, congestion or law-enforcement direction.

Fire trucks and other emergency vehicles performing an emergency, public safety or training function. *

Military and farm vehicles.

Vehicles idling to perform necessary design functions such as cargo refrigeration, dumping, lifting, hoisting, drilling, mixing, loading and unloading. *

Idling done in order to meet vehicle manufacturer's recommendations for cold engine start-ups and shut-downs, maintenance, inspection, service, repairs and diagnosis.

Idling for the purpose of heating or air-conditioning occupied sleeper berths in trucks during federally mandated rest or sleep periods. (Exemption expires on May 1, 2011.)

Auxiliary power units (APUs).

Heavy-duty vehicles with a primary diesel engine meeting the California NOx idling emission standard. [Title 13, Calif. Code of Regulations, Sect. 1956.8(a)(6)(C)]

Passenger buses while passengers are on board and up to 20 minutes prior to boarding. *

Heavy-duty vehicles that idle to provide customer comfort while providing services, such as book-mobiles, blood-mobiles, and vendors of safety shoes and glasses. *

Idling necessary to operate defrosters, heaters, air-conditioners and other equipment in order to prevent safety or health emergencies.

** Exemption does not apply when idling solely for driver comfort.*

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