



Issued: 02/01/07

Subject: Tier 0 Portable Engine Permitting Policy

Revised:

Policy Statement

The December 7, 2007 amendments to the California ARB Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) and the Portable Compression Engine Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) do not allow Tier 0 engines to register, but do allow Districts to permit Tier 0 engines if they wish to do so. The main purpose of this memo is to establish policy that the Ventura County APCD will issue permits to Tier 0 engines that are not eligible for PERP registration. This action is necessary to give these engines a mechanism to operate legally in Ventura County.

Although there have been many applications to register and permit portable diesel engines, there are portable engines still without a registration or permit. Many of these engines may be owned by persons not aware of the requirement to obtain a registration or permit. The District will continue to work to locate existing portable diesel engines without a permit and will require them to submit an application to obtain a permit, or a PERP registration, as appropriate.

These unpermitted Tier 0 portable engines shall be issued a Permit to Operate under the following conditions:

1. The engine operated in California prior to December 7, 2006. Proof of "residency" is required and includes, but is not limited to: permits from other air districts, registrations from other air districts, or purchase and/or operating records.
2. When an application for a Tier 0 engine is submitted, the engine will be subject to the best available control technology (BACT) and emission offset requirements of Rule 26.2. BACT is defined in Rule 26.1.3. The intent of this new policy is not to penalize persons who were unaware that they were required to obtain a permit from the District.

BACT for an existing portable diesel engine operated in California prior to December 7, 2006 will consist of the following:

BACT will be compliance with the ATCM for Portable Compression Ignition Engines. This includes the requirement that the Tier 0 engine be replaced by a portable engine that is certified to Tier 1, 2, 3, or 4 standards by 2010.

Background

The PERP provides a mechanism for owners of portable engines to "register" the engines to operate throughout California. Engines registered with the PERP are not required to obtain a permit from the air district in which they operate. In order to legally operate a portable engine (of 50 BHP or greater) in Ventura County, the engine owner must have a Ventura County APCD Permit to Operate or a PERP registration.

Owners of portable engines have found that certain units are not eligible for registration under the PERP and are ineligible for permits from local districts due to the limitations of the PERP program and/or the requirements of the Portable Compression Engine ATCM. To address this problem, CARB adopted emergency amendments to the PERP and the ATCM on December 7, 2006.

The emergency amendments provide another opportunity for resident Tier 1 and Tier 2 certified engines to be registered under the PERP. Prior to these amendments, the PERP program allowed only certified engines meeting current Tier standards (Tier 3 in most cases) to be registered. In addition, the ATCM prohibited local districts from permitting these engines, leaving operators with little choice between not operating and operating in violation. Older engines not certified and not meeting a Tier standard, also referred to as Tier 0 engines, are still not eligible for registration under the PERP, but may, in some cases, obtain a local permit due to changes to the ATCM.

Discussion

This Tier 0 permitting policy does not apply to unpermitted or unregistered Tier 1, 2, or 3 portable engines. The owners of unpermitted Tier 1, 2, or 3 engines shall be encouraged to apply for and obtain a PERP registration. Portable Tier 1, 2, and 3 engines that are still not eligible for PERP registration (such as portable engines used on offshore OCS oil platforms) may obtain permits under this policy.

This policy does not apply to engines that are considered to be part of a stationary source normally permitted by the District. These engines are not eligible for PERP registration and when permitted with the District may be subject to more stringent BACT requirements than those described above.

Signed:



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