



## State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Mobile Sources  
Mail Code 401-02E, P.O. Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420  
(609) 292-7953, Fax: (609) 633-8236  
[www.StopTheSoot.org](http://www.StopTheSoot.org)

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

### NON-ROAD DIESEL EQUIPMENT IDLING FACT SHEET

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#### New Jersey's Idling Regulation

- N.J.A.C. 7:27-14.3 states that "No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit the engine of a **diesel-powered motor vehicle** to idle for more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion", with some exceptions.
- N.J.A.C. 7:27-14.1 defines a "Motor Vehicle" to be a vehicle "propelled otherwise than by muscular power, excepting motorized bicycles and such vehicles as run only upon rails or tracks". Therefore, all non-road diesel vehicles except locomotives are subject to idling restrictions.

#### What is idling and why is it so important to reduce it?

- Idling means that the engine is running while the non-road equipment is not moving and is not utilized in whole or in part for the necessary and work-related mechanical or electrical operation for which it was designed.
- The purpose of the idling restriction is to prevent unnecessary idling and air emissions.
- Idling of non-road equipment wastes an average of one gallon of fuel per hour, increases wear-and-tear on the engine, and harms the vehicle's operator and the people who live and work in the vicinity of the construction site.
- Eliminating unnecessary idling saves money, increases the life of your equipment, and helps everyone breathe easier!

#### Are there any exceptions to the three-minute idling limit that may pertain to non-road vehicles?

- A motor vehicle that has been stopped for three or more hours when the ambient temperature is below 25 degrees Fahrenheit may idle for up to 15 consecutive minutes.
  - *Engines generally require less time to warm up than one might assume, especially newer engines, and in colder temperatures a 15 minute limit is more than sufficient.*
  - *If the manufacturer's operating manual specifies a longer time than three minutes for warm-up of engines at any temperature, such as five minutes, this is allowed.*

- A motor vehicle whose primary power source is utilized in whole or in part for necessary and prescribed mechanical operation.
  - *Examples include hydraulic lifts, cranes, cement mixers, cherry pickers, boom lifts, or similar equipment.*
- Idling while waiting in a constantly moving line of vehicles (often called queuing) while the property or material is being loaded or unloaded or engaging in active operation working in tandem with other equipment.
  - *If the line of traffic is not short-term and exceeds 3 minutes, or vehicles are awaiting entrance to a facility, idling is not allowed.*
- Vehicles that are actively performing emergency services.
  - *Examples of this include a utility service restoration that requires emergency warning lights or other mechanical functions, or use of portable generators during a power outage.*
- Operational safety concerns.
  - *If sight is obstructed due to snow and ice and cannot be cleared through mechanical means, limited idling is allowed.*

#### **Is idling allowed with newer Tier 3, 4 or retrofitted equipment?**

- No! It is even more critical to reduce idling to ensure the proper functioning of emission control systems on newer equipment. Most idling is not necessary.

#### **Are there recommendations for staging equipment?**

- Efforts should be made to locate vehicles, equipment, generators, and material staging areas away from high volume pedestrian areas, fresh air intakes, air conditioners and windows of adjacent buildings. This is especially critical when the construction is occurring near schools, hospitals, nursing homes or day care centers.
- Vehicles preparing to enter or re-enter the work area are subject to the 3 minute idling limit

#### **Who is liable for violations of the idling regulations?**

- Violations of the idling regulation are issued to both the vehicle owner and the property owner where the idling was allowed to occur. Leased vehicles are the responsibility of the lessee.
- Commercial vehicle fines are: \$250 for the first violation, \$500 for the second violation, and \$1,000 for the third and each subsequent violation.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, visit [www.StopTheSoot.org](http://www.StopTheSoot.org) or contact the Bureau of Mobile Sources at 609-292-7953.