

California's Air Resources Board Implements Revised HDE Certification

Procedures Two Years Early – On December 8, 2000, the ARB adopted requirements to implement additional certification testing requirements for HDEs in 2005 – two years ahead of EPA's recently adopted revised HDE certification procedures. EPA, on October 6, 2000 (65 FR 59896), published its Phase 1 on-highway HDE rule which included a requirement that 2007 and later model year HDEs comply with a new certification test procedure that adds the EURO III European Stationary Cycle (ECS) test and a Not-To-Exceed (NTE) test to the existing FTP transient test. The NTE standard would be 1.25 times the 2.5 g/bhp-hr NO_x+NMHC standard measured over the existing transient FTP, or a 3.125 g/bhp-hr standard.

The majority of the seven HDE manufacturing companies covered by the U.S. Department of Justice NO_x consent decree have agreed to produce engines beginning in October 2002 that will meet the applicable NO_x+NMHC standard over the expanded certification test procedure. The consent decree requires that these procedures be met for only two years. To fill the gap between 2004 and 2007, ARB adopted regulations that include the ECS and NTE tests for 2005 and 2006 model year HDEs certified for sale in California. ARB agreed to conduct a technology review in 2003 to consider whether any adjustments to the NTE requirement are needed.