

University of California, Berkeley

Off-Road Diesel Powered Equipment Idling Standard Operating Procedure

Applicability

This standard operating procedure applies to the operation of all off-road diesel powered vehicles or equipment, owned by or located on, the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) campus or any locations under the control of UCB staff or personnel. This standard operating procedure is a direct result of legal requirements in California and failure to comply with the requirements of this standard operating procedure, or any of its implementation measures, may result in appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of UCB or its representative.

Rationale

Diesel exhaust from idling engines can accumulate in and around the emission source and pose an exposure risk to the students, staff, driver, operator, and the community at large. California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has determined that diesel exhaust is "toxic" and that long-term exposure to diesel exhaust has a potential for increased risk of cancer. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has issued restrictive regulations for diesel idling in the state. Detailed information is available from the UCB Environment, Health & Safety department upon request.

Purpose

To ensure compliance by UCB and its agents with the current regulatory requirements and to eliminate all unnecessary idling of off-road diesel engines on UCB controlled property or by UCB personnel or its agents.

Guidance

No off-road diesel engine or diesel powered equipment shall be idled on UCB property or by UCB personnel or an agent of UCB for more than five (5) minutes unless one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. Idling required when queuing,
2. Idling to verify the vehicle or equipment is in safe operating condition,
3. Idling to provide services in the event of an emergency specifically for protection of human health, safety, or the environment,
4. Idling required for engine or equipment testing, servicing, repairing, or diagnostics,
5. Idling to accomplish work for which the vehicle or equipment was designed (lifting, power generation, mixing, pumping, etc.),
6. Idling required to bring the diesel powered system to a predetermined minimum operating temperature per manufacturer's requirements, or
7. Idling to ensure the health and safety of the equipment operator.

Standard Operating Procedure

The following standard operating procedure shall apply to all off-road diesel powered vehicles or equipment located on or used on UCB property. All UCB personnel or agents of UCB that operate diesel powered equipment shall be made aware of this standard operating procedure prior

to operations and refreshed as necessary. It is the responsibility of the department supervisor, operations manager, or other designated personnel where off-road diesel equipment is operating to implement and enforce this standard operating procedure.

1. All drivers/operators of off-road diesel powered equipment and/or their companies shall be made aware of this standard operating procedure when they operate on UCB property and shall be provided a copy of the standard operating procedure and requirements if requested.
2. Operators of off-road diesel powered equipment shall turn off their engines when the equipment is not performing its primary function but no later than five (5) minutes after the equipment is not performing its primary function.
3. Idling for “warm-up” prior to diesel vehicle or equipment operations on UCB property shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes.
4. Off-road diesel powered equipment associated with UCB construction projects shall limit engine idling to equipment working periods only and only if the availability of the equipment’s function is required as part of an ongoing task.

Exceptions

The following specific exceptions to the five (5) minute maximum idling requirement are included in this standard operating procedure. Special situations may arise from time to time and a request for exemption from these standard operating procedure requirements should be directed through and approved by the UCB Environment, Health & Safety department. Such exemptions will be documented and limited to specific situations. Such “special exemptions” should not be considered a “general” exemption to this standard operating procedure.

1. Idling when the vehicle/equipment must remain motionless due to traffic conditions, an official traffic control device, an official traffic control signal, at the direction of a peace officer, or other situation where the driver has no discretionary control;
2. Idling when the vehicle/equipment is “queuing” as part of normal operations and procedures;
3. Idling when the vehicle/equipment is forced to remain motionless due to weather or any other condition adversely affecting the safe operation of the vehicle;
4. Idling when the vehicle/equipment is forced to remain motionless due to mechanical difficulties over which the driver has no control;
5. Operation of the off-road diesel engine for required testing, servicing, repairing, security or diagnostic purposes outside the normal maintenance area;
6. Idling of the diesel engine to operate equipment necessary to prevent a safety or health emergency or for providing emergency services for which the vehicle was designed;
7. Idling of the off-road diesel engine when it is directly connected to or providing auxiliary power either as a “power take-off” or equivalent for:
 - a. Operating a lift, crane, pump, drill, hoist, mixer, etc.
 - b. Providing mechanical work functions for which the vehicle or equipment was designed.
 - c. Collection or transfer of waste or recyclable materials by an authorized agency or contractor.

Any questions or situations related to this standard operating procedure or requests for exemptions to this standard operating procedure should be directed through the Environmental Health & Safety department of UCB.

Citations to the applicable CA laws

- California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 3, Article 1, Chapter 10, 1956.8.
- California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 3, Article 1, Chapter 10, 2485.
- California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 3, Article 1, Chapter 10, 2449(d)(3).

Violations

The ARB enforcement advisory for idling is available online from ARB's website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/guidance/idling.pdf>. The enforcement advisory describes the method by which the idling policy will be enforced by ARB staff, and states that penalties of up to \$10,000 per day, from the first day the idling policy was required until the violation is found, may be assessed.