



## Fact Sheet: Zero-Emission Forklift Regulation General Overview

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### Regulation

Following an extensive public process, the Zero-Emission Forklift Regulation (ZEF) was approved by the California Air Resource Board (CARB) in June 2024.

#### Applicability

This regulation applies to cushion-tired forklifts of all lift capacities and pneumatic-tired forklifts of lift capacities 12,000 pounds or less powered by a large spark-ignited (LSI) engine (Targeted Forklifts). Targeted forklifts would include propane-, natural gas-, and gasoline-fueled forklifts. This regulation would not apply to rough-terrain forklifts.

#### Requirements

Starting in 2026, manufacturers would be subject to production and sales restrictions and reporting for Targeted Forklifts in California. Additionally, fleet operators would be restricted from acquiring these Targeted Forklifts.

Also beginning in 2026, fleets shall maintain records related to reporting requirements needed to demonstrate compliance with the regulation.

From 2028 to 2038, fleet operators would be required to phase out existing Targeted Forklifts by model year, addressing the oldest equipment first. Large fleets (fleets with 26 or more forklifts) would be subject to a more-aggressive phase-out timeline than small fleets and agricultural crop preparation service fleets. To reduce the burden for fleets with older forklifts, the required turnover of forklifts for the first compliance date is capped at no more than 50% of forklifts for large fleets and 25% for small fleets and agricultural crop preparation services.

Additionally, fleet operators will need to contact their electric utility provider, no later than March 31, 2026, to initiate discussions regarding potential electrical-service installation or necessary upgrades for facilities where LSI forklifts are operated.

## Extensions and Exemptions

The regulation provides extensions for delays outside of the fleet operator's control, such as delays in the delivery of zero-emission forklifts, delays in the installation of charging/fueling infrastructure, or if there is no commercially available ZEF model that can meet the needs of an operation currently served by an LSI forklift.

The regulation would also provide exemptions in certain situations, such as for low-use, dedicated emergency use, and in-field forklifts.

## Incentives

Incentive programs, such as the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/carl-moyer-program-apply>), FARMER (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/farmer-program>), and Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project ([www.californiacore.org](http://www.californiacore.org)), may have funding options available for zero-emission forklifts. Please see the program pages for details.



## Disclaimer & Additional Information

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes and does not supersede the regulation. For additional details, please see the Proposed Zero-Emission Forklift Regulation (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/zero-emission-forklifts>) web page or scan the QR code.

If you have questions, please send them to [zeforklifts@arb.ca.gov](mailto:zeforklifts@arb.ca.gov).