Frequently Asked Questions

Regulation for In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets

(Off-Road Regulation)

Restrictions on Adding Vehicles
Revised June 2026

Q – Are there any current restrictions on adding vehicles to my fleet?

A – Yes, the requirements for "adding vehicles" can be found in section 2449(d) (6) of the In Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation (Off-Road Regulation) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 13, §2449 et seq.).

Please see the following link: Link to section 2449(d)(6)

(A) **Ban on adding Tier 0s** – Beginning on January 1, 2014, a fleet may not add a vehicle with a Tier 0 engine to its fleet. The engine tier must be Tier 1 or higher.

(B) **Ban on adding Tier 1s –** Beginning on January 1, 2012, for large and medium fleets, and January 1, 2016, for small fleets, a fleet may not add any vehicle with a Tier 1 engine. The engine tier must be Tier 2 or higher.

(C) **Ban on adding Tier 2s –** Beginning January 1, 2018, for large and medium fleets, and January 1, 2023, for small fleets, a fleet may not add a vehicle with a Tier 2 engine to its fleet. The engine tier must be Tier 3 or higher.

(D) **Ban on adding Tier 3s –** Beginning January 1, 2024, a fleet may not add a vehicle with a Tier 3 engine to its fleet. The engine tier must be Tier 4 interim or higher.

(E) **Ban on adding Tier 4 interims –** Beginning January 1, 2024, for large and medium fleets, and January 1, 2028, for small fleets, a fleet may not add any vehicle with a Tier 4 interim. The engine tier must be Tier 4 final or higher.

(F) **Ban on adding Tier 4 interims for fleets with 500 hp or less –** A fleet that chooses to comply with the requirements of 2449(e)(16) is not subject to the small fleet Tier 4 interim vehicle adding provisions in section 2449(d)(6)(E). Instead, beginning January 1, 2035, a fleet that chooses to comply with the requirements of 2449(e)(16) may not add a vehicle with a Tier 4 interim engine to its fleet.

(G) **Ban on adding vehicles powered by model year 2006 or earlier on-road engines** – Beginning January 1, 2024, for large and medium fleets, and January 1, 2028, for small fleets, a fleet may not add a vehicle powered by a model year 2006 or earlier on-road engine to its fleet. To be added to a fleet, a vehicle powered by an on-road engine that is model year 2007 or later.

(H) **Ban on adding Tier 0s with special provisions** – Beginning January 1, 2024, for large, medium, and small fleets, a fleet may not add a vehicle with a Tier 0 engine to its fleet as a vehicle designated as a dedicated snow removal vehicle, a vehicle used for emergency operations, or a Job Corps vehicle, as described in section 2449(e).

The chart below shows the date adding vehicle restrictions begin for each engine Tier and fleet size.

Compliance Dates for the Restrictions on Adding Vehicles

Year (January 1st)	Large Fleets	Medium Fleets	Small Fleets	Ultra-Small Fleet Option
2024	**T3 T4I**	**T3 T4I**	**T3**	**T3**
2028	-	-	**T4I**	-
2035	-	-	-	**T4I**

As of January 1, 2026, large and medium fleets can only add Tier 4 Final engines, which are generally model year 2015 or newer. As of January 1, 2028, small fleets can only add Tier 4 Final engines. As of January 1, 2035, ultra-small fleets can only add Tier 4 Final engines.

For example, if a small fleet wanted to purchase a vehicle on January 1, 2027, the vehicle's engine would have to be a Tier 4I or cleaner engine. If a medium or large fleet wanted to purchase a vehicle on this same date, it would have to be a Tier 4F or cleaner engine.

While this document is intended to assist fleets with their compliance efforts, it does not alter or modify the terms of any CARB regulation, is not a substitute for reading the regulation, nor does it constitute legal advice. It is the sole responsibility of fleets to ensure compliance with the Regulation for In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets.

Q – Do the "adding vehicles" requirements apply to vehicles I already own?

A – It depends, but generally no. The "adding vehicles" requirements apply to offroad vehicles/engines not already part of the fleet subject to the Off-Road Regulation. For example, a fleet may not add vehicles with Tier 3 engines to its off-road fleet after January 1, 2024; however, any Tier 3 vehicles already in the fleet at the time the ban takes effect may generally continue to operate.

Nevertheless, exceptions may apply. For example, if an off-road vehicle is currently exempt from the Off-Road Regulation because it is subject to another regulation, the vehicle must meet the "adding vehicles" requirements when the fleet becomes subject to the Off-Road Regulation.

Another exception affects vehicles designated permanent low-use. Once a vehicle is designated permanent low-use, it must meet the "adding vehicles" requirement to be removed from the designation.

If you have questions about how this might apply to your particular fleet, please contact the DOORS Hotline at 1877-59DOORS (1-877-593-6677).

Q – Can I still add a vehicle that does not meet the "adding vehicles" requirements if I make it a low-use vehicle?

A – No. Once the "adding vehicles" requirements are in effect, a fleet cannot add a restricted vehicle (i.e., a vehicle that does not meet the "adding vehicles" requirements) to the fleet, even as a low-use vehicle.

Q – Can I still add a restricted vehicle if I plan to use it 51-99% of the time as an agricultural vehicle?

A – Yes. Vehicles used 51% to 99% of the time for agricultural operations are exempt from the "adding vehicles" requirements and all other performance requirements of the Off-Road Regulation as laid out in section 2449(e)(11).

Please see the following link: Link to section 2449(e)(11)

Q – Can I purchase and add a restricted vehicle to my fleet if I only want to use the vehicle for parts?

A – Yes. Fleets may still purchase a restricted vehicle if the vehicle will not be operated in California and is only being used for parts. For more information, please see the Vehicles Used for Parts FAQ.

Q – As an equipment dealer, can I take in restricted vehicles as trade-ins?

A – Yes. Equipment dealers may take restricted vehicles as trade-ins in order to sell them out-of-state or to a buyer not subject to the Off-Road Regulation (i.e., the restricted vehicle cannot be operated or included as part of the dealer's rental fleet in California).

Q – Can I still rent/lease restricted vehicles?

A – Yes, under some conditions. For a vehicle rented or leased for a period of less than one year, the vehicle is considered the responsibility of the rental or leasing company (lessor) and not considered an addition to the fleet renting/leasing the vehicle (the lessee). Therefore, the lessee does not need to meet the "adding vehicles" requirements and can rent restricted vehicles.

For vehicles rented/leased for a period of one year or more, the vehicle may be considered part of the lessee's fleet if such arrangement is provided for in the rental contract or lease. In such a case, the rental/leased vehicle would be considered an addition to the lessee's fleet and subject to the "adding vehicles" requirements; the lessee would not be able to rent/lease a restricted vehicle. For more information, please see the Rental/Leased Equipment FAQ.

Q – I am a rental/leasing company (lessor). If a fleet (lessee) wants to return a rented/leased vehicle back to me, am I allowed to accept that vehicle back into my fleet if it is now restricted?

A – Yes, under some conditions. For vehicles rented/leased for a period of one year or more, the "adding vehicles" requirements do not apply to lessors accepting vehicles returned at the end of a lease, as long as the arrangement was delineated in the written lease agreement and the rented/leased vehicle was counted as part of the lessee's fleet and not an unregistered vehicle during the period of the lease (i.e., the vehicle must have been included in the lessee's DOORS fleet). Once returned to the lessor, the vehicle does not need to meet the "adding vehicles" requirements, but it must be included in the lessor's fleet average targets and indices on subsequent compliance dates.

For a vehicle rented or leased for a period of less than one year, the vehicle should remain in the lessor's fleet. Since the vehicle should have remained in the lessor's DOORS fleet (i.e., registered to the lessor even while rented/leased), the "adding vehicles" requirements will not apply to the vehicle when returned to the lessor.

For more information, please see the Rental/Leased Equipment FAQ.

Q – What if I want to sell a vehicle with a restricted engine? Who can still purchase a vehicle with a restricted engine? Does the vehicle have to be sold out of state?

A – Restricted vehicles are not required to be sold out-of-state. Parties not subject to the Off-Road Regulation may still be able to legally purchase restricted vehicles. Out-of-state fleets, fleets involved in agricultural operations, an individual wanting a vehicle for personal (noncommercial, non-governmental) use, or a dealership (who intends to sell the vehicle) all may be able to purchase restricted vehicles legally. Out-of-state fleets should consult their local or state regulations and restrictions.

However, all vehicles sold within California must include the Disclosure of Applicability, as stated in section 2449(l).

Please see the following link: Link to section 2449(l)

Q – Do I need to report vehicles I have added to my fleet to CARB?

A – Yes. When a fleet acquires a vehicle subject to the Off-Road Regulation, the vehicle must be reported to CARB within 30 days of purchase, or within 30 days of entry into California. For more information on reporting vehicles, please see the DOORS user guides available on the Off-Road Zone website at the Off-Road Zone DOORS Resources webpage.

Q – I am purchasing an off-road diesel vehicle and want to know if I can add it to my fleet. How do I determine the tier of the engine?

A – The tier of a diesel off-road engine is based on the engine's model year and horsepower. For the purposes of the "adding vehicles" requirements, a vehicle may be assumed to meet the tier of the engine. The chart on the next page shows off-road diesel engine tiers by engine horsepower and model year.

Off-Road Diesel Engine Tiers by Engine Horsepower and Model Year

Engine Model Year	Engine Horsepower Groups							
	25-49	50-74	75-99	100-174	175-299	300-599	600-750	750+
1989 and Earlier	T0	T0	T0	T0	T0	T0	T0	T0
1996	T0	T0	T0	T0	T1	T1	T1	T0
1997	T0	T0	T0	T1	T1	T1	T1	T0
1998	T0	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T0
1999	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T0
2000	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1
2001	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T2	T1	T1
2002	T1	T1	T1	T1	T1	T2	T2	T1
2003	T1	T1	T1	T2	T2	T2	T2	T1
2004	T2	T2	T2	T2	T2	T2	T2	T1
2005	T2	T2	T2	T2	T2	T2	T2	T1
2006	T2	T2	T2	T2	T3	T3	T3	T2
2007	T2	T2	T2	T3	T3	T3	T3	T2
2008	T4I	T4I	T3	T3	T3	T3	T3	T2
2009	T4I	T4I	T3	T3	T3	T3	T3	T2
2010	T4I	T4I	T3	T3	T3	T3	T3	T2
2011	T4I	T4I	T3	T3	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I
2012	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I
2013	T4	T4	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I	T4I
2014	T4	T4	T4I	T4I	T4	T4	T4	T4I
2015 and later	T4	T4	T4	T4	T4	T4	T4	T4

Q – I am purchasing an off-road diesel vehicle with a flexibility engine. How do I determine the tier of a flexibility engine?

A – A fleet should use the model year and horsepower of the engine to determine the tier. A vehicle cannot be presumed to meet the tier associated with its engine model year. For more information on flexibility engines, please see the Model Year FAQ.

Q – I am purchasing a vehicle subject to the Off-Road Regulation that has an on-road engine. How do I determine if I can add this on-road vehicle to my fleet?

A – On-road engines are not subject to the same "tiered" engine standards as off-road engines. A fleet may add a vehicle (subject to the Off-Road Regulation) that contains an on-road engine to its fleet, as long as the engine MY is 2007 or newer.

Q – How do I determine if I can add an alternative- or gasoline-fueled vehicle to my fleet?

A – A fleet may include an alternative-fueled or gasoline-powered vehicle that is 25 horsepower or greater (or that replaced a diesel vehicle 25 horsepower or greater) in the fleet average calculations, as specified in section 2449(d) (1) (A), as long as its owner can demonstrate the following:

Please see the following link: [Link to section 2449(d)(1)(A)]

1) The vehicle serves a function and performs the work equivalent to that of a diesel vehicle and is used for a purpose for which diesel vehicles are predominantly used;
2) The vehicle is used predominantly outdoors;
3) The vehicle is not already included in the fleet average emission level requirements for large spark ignition engine fleets in title 13, section 2775.1;
4) Its engine is certified to a NOx standard less than or equal to the Tier 1 NOx standard for the same horsepower, and is less than or equal to the NOx emissions of a diesel engine of the same model year and horsepower; and
5) For a gasoline-powered vehicle, the owner must identify the diesel vehicle that the gasoline-powered vehicle replaced and maintain records documenting the function of the diesel vehicle replaced and the gasoline-powered replacement vehicle, and the dates of sale and purchase for both vehicles.

Q – How do I determine if I can add an electric vehicle to my fleet?

A – Since electric vehicles do not have a tier level, and are assigned an emission factor of zero, a fleet may include an electric vehicle 25 horsepower or greater in the fleet average calculations, as specified in section 2449(d)(1)(B), as long as its owner can demonstrate the following:

Please see the following link: [Link to section 2449(d)(1)(B)]

1) The electric vehicle performs the work of a diesel vehicle and must be used for a purpose for which diesel vehicles are predominately used;
2) The electric vehicle must be used predominately outdoors; and
3) The electric vehicle cannot already be included in the fleet average requirements for large spark ignition engine fleets.

Q – If I am adding a two-engine vehicle to my fleet, do both engines need to meet the adding vehicle requirements?

A – Yes. If both engines of a two-engine vehicle are subject to the Off-Road Regulation, then both engines must meet the “adding vehicles” requirements if they are off-road certified engines. If the two-engine vehicle contains one off-road engine and one on-road engine, both engines must meet the "adding vehicles" requirements. For more information, please see the Two-Engine Vehicles FAQ.

Q – I am currently a small fleet (2,500 hp or less), but I would like to add a Tier 4 interim vehicle that would change my fleet size to medium. The "adding vehicles" provision prohibits medium and large fleets from adding Tier 4 interim vehicles after January 1, 2024. Can I still add the vehicle, even if it changes my fleet size?

A – Yes. Since your fleet is considered to be a small fleet at the time of purchase or acquisition, the "adding vehicles" requirements for medium and large fleets would not apply to your fleet at that time. However, once your fleet grows in size, the "adding vehicles" requirements for the current fleet size will apply immediately and the fleet would be prohibited from subsequently adding another Tier 4 interim.