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Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 14, 2004

Mail-Out #MSC 04-08

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP REGARDING PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO
THE FLEET RULE FOR TRANSIT AGENCIES

Background: In February 2000, the Air Resources Board (ARB or the Board) adopted the fleet rule for transit agencies (Title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR), sections 1956.1-1956.4, as amended on October 24, 2002). This regulation is designed to achieve significant reductions in particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from urban buses. Not included in this rule were requirements for buses and vehicles other than urban buses that are operated by transit agencies. These buses and other vehicles use engines certified to truck emission standards, which are higher than the emission standards required of urban bus engines.

Workshop: We have previously conducted workshops on this item on April 3, 2003, December 3, 2003 and December 4, 2003. Comments from those workshops have been reviewed and, in some cases, incorporated into this proposal. The most recent draft of the proposed amendments will be available on the website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/bus/bus.htm>.

The following dates and times have been scheduled to provide an overview of the revised draft regulations and receive public comments. Please note that the workshops may end earlier than scheduled if all issues have been discussed.

Date: Monday, May 17, 2004
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: Cal EPA Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, California 95814

The Sacramento workshop on Monday, May 17, 2004 will be webcast on the ARB website. For more information, go to:
http://www.arb.ca.gov/app/calendar/cal_wbcst.php

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2004
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: Air Resources Board
Auditorium, Annex 4
9530 Telstar Avenue
El Monte, California 91731

Fleet Rule for Transit Agencies

Staff is proposing modifications to the fleet rule for transit agencies and reporting requirements. These proposed regulation modifications would apply to all California transit agencies, including transit agencies that do not own any urban buses and currently are not subject to the fleet rule for transit agencies. Staff is proposing that the amendments would require reductions in NOx emissions from trucks and buses that meet the following criteria: all fuel types of medium-heavy and heavy-heavy trucks and buses greater than 8,500 gross vehicle weight, owned or operated (through contract or agreement) by a public transit agency. Staff is also proposing to require reductions in PM emissions from diesel-fueled trucks and buses. New in this proposal is the application of the requirements to all heavy-duty vehicles, in addition to buses, owned or operated by transit agencies.

Related Regulation Development

This proposal making does not affect buses used in shuttle services provided by or for community colleges, universities, and tourism separate from public transit operations. ARB is, however, proposing a measure that would require these operators to reduce diesel PM emissions from their buses and other heavy-duty diesel vehicles. The workshop for that regulation, on-road public fleets, will be held at 10 a.m. –12 p.m. on the same dates and in the same locations as the workshop for the modification of the Fleet Rule for Transit Agencies.

Staff encourages comments regarding this proposed modification of the Fleet Rule for Transit Agencies and would appreciate receiving written comments by June 10, 2004. Timely submittal of comments allows staff time to address comments before the proposed regulation order is submitted to the Board for consideration in late 2004. Please send your comments to Ms. Kathleen Mead at kmead@arb.ca.gov and copy Dr. Nancy L.C. Steele, Manager, at nsteele@arb.ca.gov, or by mail, Attention: Ms. Kathleen Mead, Air Resources Board, Mobile Source Control Division, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, California 95812.

Modification of Fleet Rule for Transit Agency Workshop
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If you have special accommodation or language needs or have any questions or comments regarding the workshop, please contact Ms. Neidy Pinuelas, Secretary, Heavy Duty Diesel In-Use Strategies Branch, at (626) 350-6454, or send an email to npinuela@arb.ca.gov, as soon as possible. Teletypewriter/Telecommunications Device for the Deaf /Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Cross', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division