



Linda S. Adams
*Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

Air Resources Board

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
El Monte, California 91731 • www.arb.ca.gov



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

July 11, 2011

Mail-Out #11-24

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: DRAFT PROPOSED TEST PROCEDURE MODIFICATIONS FOR SMALL
OFF-ROAD ENGINES AND EQUIPMENT

The Air Resources Board (ARB) staff is planning to propose modifications to the California small off-road engine (SORE) regulations primarily to increase harmonization of the test procedures with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) rules. Staff plans to accomplish this goal by sunsetting the current test procedures with the 2012 model year and adopting portions of U.S. EPA's Parts 1054 and 1065, of Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (published on November 8, 2010). However California has specific goals that may differ from the needs of the rest of the country; therefore, some portions of Parts 1054 and 1065 have been either modified or excluded. For example, U.S. EPA and ARB have very different emission credit programs, so ARB has excluded portions of U.S. EPA's rules that refer to their credit program. The proposed modifications are scheduled to be considered for adoption at the December 2011 Board Hearing.

In addition to proposing adoption of these modifications, ARB staff is considering a proposal to change the SORE certification exhaust test fuel to a ten-percent ethanol blend (E10). This change is being considered so that the certification test fuel used for California's off-road gasoline-fueled engine and equipment categories remains consistent with the planned E10 changes to the on-road motor vehicle certification test fuel requirements. Please note that because ARB staff is only in the early stages of considering this modification, the attached documents do not specifically reflect this proposed change. Nevertheless, we are seeking comments from interested parties on this important issue.

Please review the draft proposed changes to the SORE test procedures. These changes are attached as modifications to the California Exhaust Emission Standards and Test Procedures for 2005 and Later Small Off-Road Engines, and Parts 1054 and 1065.

*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

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Questions and comments may be submitted to Yun Hui Park, Air Resources Engineer at ypark@arb.ca.gov or (626) 450-6263 or Ron Haste, Manager at rhaste@arb.ca.gov or (626) 575-6676. We welcome any input to our draft proposed changes that may improve these test procedures.

Sincerely,

\s\

Bob Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

Attachments

cc: Ron Haste, Manager
Off-Road Controls Section

Yun Hui Park
Air Resources Engineer
Off-Road Controls Section