

Resource Information

EPA Diesel Milestones Since the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990

- 1993 Highway Low Sulfur Diesel Rule:** For the first time, the Agency limits sulfur content of highway diesel fuel to 500 parts per million (ppm).
- 1994 Urban Bus Program:** New standards and retrofit requirements for urban buses.
- 1997 Locomotive Rule:** Emission standards for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and smoke for new and re-manufactured diesel-powered locomotive engines.
- 1998 Tier 2 and 3 Nonroad Diesel Rule:** Emissions standards for new diesel engines used in nonroad construction, agricultural, airport and industrial equipment, as well as in certain marine applications. Very few of these engine categories had emission standards in place before the mid-1990s.
- 2004 Highway Diesel Standards:** Emission standards to reduce NO_x and hydrocarbons from heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses to be implemented in 2004.
- 1999 Commercial Marine Diesel Rule:** Final rule to reduce nitrogen oxides and particulate matter emissions from new large marine diesel engines. These engines are used in a variety of capacities, including fishing boats, tug and tow boats, coastal and Great Lakes cargo vessels.

2000 2007 Clean Diesel Truck/Bus and Low Sulfur Diesel Rule:

Comprehensive national control program that will regulate heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses and highway diesel fuel as a single system. These new standards will apply to model year 2007 engines and vehicles. Also, reduces sulfur in highway diesel fuel by 97 percent (15 ppm) by mid-2006.

Voluntary Diesel Retrofit Program: Reduce pollution resulting from existing diesel vehicles and equipment by encouraging fleet owners to install pollution-reducing devices on vehicles and to use cleaner-burning diesel fuel.

2002 Recreational Marine: Applied similar standards from 1999 commercial marine diesel rule to recreational marine diesel engine.

2003 Ocean-Going Vessels: Emissions standards for new marine diesel engines on U.S. flagged ocean-going vessels.

Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Proposal: Proposal to further reduce emissions from nonroad diesel engines used in construction, mining, industrial, airport and agricultural equipment.

Clean School Bus USA Program: Reduces children's exposure to diesel exhaust by eliminating unnecessary school bus idling, installing effective emission control systems on newer buses, and replacing the oldest buses in the fleet with newer ones.

2004 Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule: The most recent nonroad standards will dramatically reduce emissions by over 90 percent from nonroad diesel equipment and dramatically reduce sulfur levels by 99 percent from current levels in nonroad diesel fuel starting in 2007. This step will apply to most nonroad diesel fuel in 2010 and to fuel used in locomotives and marine vessels in 2012.

Locomotive and Marine Diesel Engine Standards: EPA is issuing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rule and is inviting comment on a plan to propose more stringent emission standards and other provisions for new and existing locomotives, and new marine diesel engines.