



Clean Air Zone

Sample school district policy to limit school bus idling

- (a) Purpose. This policy seeks to reduce student and driver exposure to diesel exhaust particulate matter by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses.
- (b) Applicability. This policy applies to district-owned and contracted school buses while being operated for the purpose of transporting the school district's students at public expense.
- (c) Idling Control Measure.
 - (1) The school district shall:
 - (A) relocate school building air intake systems more than 100 feet away from school bus parking areas when practical and take other measures such as regulating closure of air intake vents, to reduce intake of school bus exhaust where relocating intake systems is not feasible.
 - (2) A driver of a diesel school bus shall:
 - (A) turn off the bus upon reaching a school or other destination and must not turn on the engine until necessary to depart from the school or destination; and
 - (B) park the bus at least 100 feet from a known and active school air intake system, unless the school district has determined that alternative locations block traffic, impair student safety, or are not cost-effective.
 - (3) The employer of the school bus driver shall:
 - (A) ensure that upon employment and as necessary thereafter, the bus or vehicle driver is informed of the requirements of this policy and the reasons therefore.
 - (B) review all complaints of non-compliance and take appropriate remedial action as necessary.
- (d) Exemptions. The requirement that a driver of a diesel school bus turn off the bus and refrain from idling does not apply for the period or periods during which idling is necessary under the following circumstances:
 - (1) Turbo-diesel Engine Cool-Down or Warm-Up

- (A) To cool down a turbo-charged diesel engine for a period not to exceed 5 minutes before turning off the engine. (The cool down should be in accordance with the bus manufacturer's specifications) or
- (B) To warm up a turbo-charged diesel engine for a period not to exceed 3 minutes. (The warm up should be in accordance with the bus manufacturer's specifications).

(2) Cold Weather

- (A) If the outside temperature is between 32 degrees and -10 degrees, idling to operate heaters is allowed for up to 15 minutes or
- (B) If the outside temperature is below -10, no time restriction on idling to use heating equipment is imposed.
- (C) In cold weather, if bus drivers will be at a location for more than 15 minutes, establishment of an indoor waiting area is encouraged.

(3) Safety of Children and Emergencies

- (A) Use of lift equipment during loading or unloading of children with one or more disabilities;
- (B) Use of a heater or an air conditioner of a bus during loading, unloading, or transporting children with exceptional needs;
- (C) Use of defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or other equipment for safety or health considerations;
- (D) Use of the bus headlights or four-way flasher warning lights for visibility purposes; or
- (E) For other traffic, safety, or emergency situations.
- (F) In any of the above cases, if equipment can be run from the battery, drivers should refrain from idling, unless there is a significant concern of draining the battery.

(4) Maintenance of Operations

- (A) To charge a battery of a school bus, if needed or
- (B) Test to verify that the bus is in safe operating condition as part of the daily pre-trip vehicle inspection, or as otherwise required, including to measure vehicle emissions.

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