



Issued: 05/17/07

Subject: Portable Gasoline Engine Permitting Policy

Revised:

Policy Statement

This policy is in addition to, and does not replace or supersede, the policy dated 02/01/07 regarding portable diesel engines entitled "Tier 0 Portable Engine Permitting Policy". This policy only applies to portable gasoline engines.

The April 27, 2007 amendments to the California ARB Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) do not allow a gasoline engine that is not a "Certified Spark-Ignition Engine" to register, but do allow Districts to permit non-certified engines if they wish to do so. The main purpose of this memo is to establish policy that the Ventura County APCD will issue permits to non-certified gasoline engines (spark-ignition engines) that are not eligible for PERP registration. This action is necessary to give these engines a mechanism to operate legally in Ventura County.

Although there have been many applications to register and permit both portable diesel and gasoline engines, there are portable engines still without a registration or permit. Many of these engines may be owned by persons not aware of the requirement to obtain a registration or permit. The District will continue to work to locate existing portable engines without a permit and will require them to submit an application to obtain a permit, or a PERP registration, as appropriate.

These unpermitted, non-certified portable gasoline engines shall be issued a Permit to Operate under the following conditions:

1. The engine operated in California prior to April 27, 2007. Proof of "residency" is required and includes, but is not limited to: permits from other air districts, registrations from other air districts, or purchase and/or operating records.
2. When an application for a portable non-certified gasoline engine is submitted, the engine will be subject to the best available control technology (BACT) and emission offset requirements of Rule 26.2. BACT is defined in Rule 26.1.3. The intent of this new policy is not to penalize persons who were unaware that they were required to obtain a permit from the District.

BACT for an existing non-certified gasoline engine operated in California prior to April 27, 2007 will consist of the following:

BACT will be considered to be compliance with the California ARB Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) Regulation. This includes the requirement that, by January 1, 2010, the non-certified gasoline engine be replaced by a certified portable gasoline engine, or the requirement that the engine be modified to meet the NOx, VOC, and CO emission limits of Table 1 of the PERP regulation. Although the PERP regulation does not specifically apply to portable gasoline engines that are not registered with the PERP, the requirement fits the definition of BACT in Rule 26.1.3.a. That is, the PERP requirement is considered to be

“achieved in practice for such emissions unit category”. The exact same gasoline engine (make, model, model year, and horsepower) that was previously registered as a resident engine with the PERP will comply with the same requirement.

Background

The PERP provides a mechanism for owners of portable engines to “register” the engines to operate throughout California. Engines registered with the PERP are not required to obtain a permit from each air district in which they operate. In order to legally operate a portable engine (of 50 BHP or greater) in Ventura County, the engine owner must have a Ventura County APCD Permit to Operate or a PERP registration.

Owners of portable engines have found that certain units are not eligible for registration under the PERP and are ineligible for permits from local districts due to the limitations of the PERP program and/or the requirements of the Portable Compression Engine ATCM. To address this problem, CARB adopted emergency amendments to the PERP and the ATCM on December 7, 2006 and to the PERP on April 27, 2007.

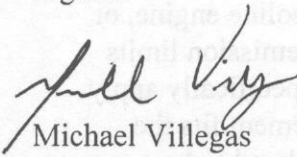
The emergency amendments provide another opportunity for resident Tier 1 and Tier 2 certified diesel engines and certified spark ignition (gasoline) engines to be registered under the PERP. Prior to these amendments, the PERP program allowed only certified engines meeting current Tier standards (Tier 3 in most cases) to be registered. In addition, the ATCM prohibited local districts from permitting these engines, leaving operators with little choice between not operating and operating in violation. Older engines not certified and not meeting a Tier standard, also referred to as Tier 0 engines, are still not eligible for registration under the PERP, but may, in some cases, obtain a local permit due to changes to the PERP Regulation and ATCM.

Discussion

This portable gasoline engine permitting policy does not apply to unpermitted or unregistered certified spark ignition engines. The owners of unpermitted certified spark ignition engines shall be encouraged to apply for and obtain a PERP registration. Portable engines that are still not eligible for PERP registration (such as portable engines used on offshore OCS oil platforms) may obtain permits under this policy.

This policy does not apply to engines that are considered to be part of a stationary source normally permitted by the District. These engines are not eligible for PERP registration and when permitted with the District may be subject to more stringent BACT requirements than those described above.

Signed:



Michael Villegas
Air Pollution Control Officer