



**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR  
OPERATORS OF  
STATIONARY EMERGENCY DIESEL ENGINES**

On April 13, 2004, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control Board adopted revisions to APCD Rule 23, Exemptions from Permit. The revisions became effective on July 12, 2004. The revisions to Rule 23.D.7 require most diesel (compression-ignited) engines used in emergencies to obtain a Permit to Operate. Spark-ignited emergency engines (such as natural gas or propane-fired engines) and any engine rated at less than 50 brake horsepower will continue to be exempt from permit. This action was taken for two reasons: First, to gather information on the inventory of emergency diesel engines in Ventura County. Second, to help implement the California Air Resources Board's recently adopted Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines.

Rule 23 previously provided an exemption from permit for diesel internal combustion engines operated during an emergency. This exemption has been removed. Therefore, most diesel internal combustion engines operated in emergency conditions must now obtain a Permit to Operate from the APCD. Portable diesel engines used for emergency purposes will remain exempt. Engines operated as back up for maintenance or failure of primary engines are not considered to be emergency engines.

If you own or operate a stationary emergency diesel engine, rated at 50 brake horsepower and greater, you will be required to obtain a Permit to Operate for its operation. In addition, certain portable engines that operate routinely at one or more specific sites for extended periods may also require a Permit to Operate. You should survey all of your facilities and operations to determine if you have any engines requiring a Permit to Operate.

Engine operators affected by this rule change must submit applications for permits no later than December 31, 2004. Application forms (cover form and supplementary forms) may be obtained from the District's website at [www.vcapcd.org/permits.htm](http://www.vcapcd.org/permits.htm). Contact the APCD Engineering Division, at 805/645-1401, for assistance with permit applications and the permit process.

Rule 23, Exemptions from Permit, may be obtained from the APCD's website at [www.vcapcd.org/rules\\_division.htm](http://www.vcapcd.org/rules_division.htm). Revised Rule 23.D.7 is included on the back of this Advisory.

Information on the Air Resources Board's Diesel Risk Reduction Program and associated ATCMs can be obtained from ARB's website at [www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/dieselrrp.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/dieselrrp.htm).

Rule 23. Exemptions from Permit

The following operations, equipment or emission sources are exempt from the requirements of Rule 10, but must comply with emission standards and prohibitions except as exempted in Rule 55. The owner or operator shall provide, as required by the District, calculations, usage records, emissions records and/or operational data as necessary to substantiate any exemptions that apply to the subject facility.

D. Vehicles, Engines

7. Emergency internal combustion engines, as follows:

- a) Until July 12, 2004, emergency internal combustion engines operated either during an emergency or during engine maintenance. Engine maintenance operation is limited to 50 hours per calendar year per engine.

For the purpose of this section, an emergency internal combustion engine is either a portable engine used for emergency purposes; an engine that is used only when electrical power line or natural gas service fails; or an engine used exclusively for the emergency pumping of water for either fire protection or flood relief.

- b) After July 12, 2004,
  - 1) Spark-ignited internal combustion engines used exclusively for the emergency pumping of water for either fire protection or flood relief. The engines may either drive pumps directly or generate electricity to drive pumps. Such engines may be operated for engine maintenance.
  - 2) Spark-ignited emergency internal combustion engines used only when electrical power line or natural gas service fails. Such engines may be operated for engine maintenance.
  - 3) Portable engines used for emergency purposes.

Engine maintenance operation is limited to 50 hours per calendar year per engine.

An emergency internal combustion engine may not be operated to replace an internal combustion engine or a turbine that has failed or requires maintenance; to supplement a primary power source when the load capacity or rating of the primary power source has been either reached or exceeded; nor to reduce the demand for electrical power when normal electrical power line service has not failed.