

CALIFORNIA'S DIESEL RETROFIT PROGRAM

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In 1998, following an exhaustive 10-year scientific assessment process, the Air Resources Board (ARB) identified particulate matter from diesel-fueled engines as a toxic air contaminant. On a statewide basis, the average potential cancer risk associated with these emissions is over 500 potential cases per million. Compared to other air toxics the Board has identified and controlled, diesel PM emissions are estimated to be responsible for about 70 percent of the total ambient air toxics risk. To address that risk, the ARB has developed a Diesel Risk Reduction Plan. An important component of this plan is the control of existing in-use diesel engines through retrofitting. ARB staff is currently verifying the emissions reductions capabilities of various control technologies, and developing programs to implement retrofit controls on portions of the in-use fleet, including refuse removal vehicles and fuel tanker trucks.