

CALIFORNIA'S CLEAN AIR PLAN AS IT RELATES TO DIESEL ENGINE EMISSION REDUCTION

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The California Air Resources Board (ARB) 2001 Clean Air Plan (CAP) represents ARB's long-range vision for reducing ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and toxics pollution. Included in the CAP are possible measures for reducing emissions from diesel engines. Diesel exhaust is a known carcinogen, and is also responsible for respiratory problems for people with asthma, as well as others with respiratory difficulties. This is especially true for children and the elderly. To reduce community health risk, the need to cut exposure to diesel particulate is essential. Diesel particulate matter (PM) constitutes the majority of all air toxic risk.

For on-road mobile sources, measures that would reduce emissions from new diesel engines, diesel engine retrofits and low-sulfur diesel fuel are being considered in the CAP. With emission laws already in place for new heavy-duty vehicles, the focus has shifted toward maintaining lower emissions for new diesel vehicles and the need for retrofits or repowers for older diesel vehicles.

In addition to on-road mobile source measures, the CAP includes measures that would reduce emissions from off-road sources, such as airports, marine vessels, and locomotives. ARB is considering new engine requirements and retrofit or replacement of current engines for these categories. Alternative fuels could also provide emission reductions from marine diesel engines and existing small (less than 50 hp) diesel engines.