

BARRIERS TO LIGHT -DUTY DIESEL IN THE UNITED STATES

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Renewed interest in domestic light-duty diesel vehicles has re-sparked the “diesel debate” among industry, energy, and environmental communities. Prior limitations of diesel engines, such as inferior performance and exhaust issues, have seen significant improvements in recent years, while the 2004 introduction of Tier 2 /LEV II emission standards provides new technical and economic challenges to advanced diesel technology. Penetration levels of light-duty diesel in the United States will depend on both the industry’s ability to surmount these barriers and renewed consumer acceptance of the technology.