



Advisory

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE IDLING

Number 349

March 18, 2008

ARMORED VEHICLE IDLING ADVISORY

The purpose of this advisory is to inform you that the California Air Resources Board (ARB) has established a statewide regulation (13 CCR 2485) to limit diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicle idling that went into effect February 1, 2005. This regulation prohibits owners and operators of diesel-fueled vehicles greater than 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight from idling the vehicle's main engine for more than 5 minutes at any location. There are situations, however, where exemptions to this rule can be applied to armored vehicles. The following information should assist owners and operators of armored vehicles in identifying situations where idling will or will not be appropriate.

There are two circumstances in which certain armored vehicle idling could be considered exempt from the regulation. First, idling periods necessary for operating video cameras could be considered exempt. We understand that some video cameras may need to be in constant operation and of sufficient draw to require idling the vehicle's primary engine.

Second, idling periods necessary to avoid a safety or health emergency could be considered exempt. ARB understands that often two employees must remain in the vehicle at all times for security purposes while a third goes into the store or bank. Climate control may be important for the two that remain since they cannot leave the vehicle and their health and safety could be compromised if they were not allowed a source of heat or air conditioning. And for safety purposes, the engine may need to remain running in order to be able to leave the premises abruptly in the event of an attempted robbery or other emergency situation.

These two circumstances provide armored vehicles with potential, but limited, exempted idling periods. Unnecessary idling while the vehicle is not being used in an official capacity remains prohibited.

Drivers found in violation of this regulation are subject to a minimum civil penalty of \$300, as specified in the Health and Safety Code. A hold on the vehicle's registration may be placed for Notices of Violation that are not cleared.

For further information on this Advisory or about the state's commercial diesel-fueled vehicle idling rule, contact Nancy O'Connor at (916) 322-8325.