



Regulatory Advisory

September 2012



Mail-Out #MSC 12-20

CLEAIRE LONGMILE PARTICULATE MATTER FILTER RECALL

Cleaire Advanced Emission Controls, Incorporated (Cleaire) is voluntarily recalling its LongMile diesel particulate matter (PM) filter system free of charge to owners. During this recall, Cleaire is either replacing the LongMile's existing metal filter with a certified silicon carbide core or a certified catalytic Cleaire Muffler Module over a prescribed recall schedule, or removing the entire system from the vehicle. This advisory addresses compliance for fleets with vehicles affected by this recall and subject to the following regulations:

- Truck and Bus Regulation
- Transit Fleet Vehicle Regulation
- Urban Bus Regulation
- Public Agency and Utility Fleet Regulation
- Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation

This advisory does not apply to engines and vehicles subject to regulations that are not identified above.

Cleaire is directly contacting affected vehicle owners to coordinate the replacement of the LongMile system or its components and will renew the warranty once the modifications are made. Please be sure to contact your Cleaire representative to coordinate making the modifications.

As a condition of the terms of the recall, Cleaire will provide affected fleets appropriate documentation identifying the vehicle as subject to the LongMile recall. The Air Resources Board (ARB) is allowing for the continued operation of vehicles covered by the regulations specified above and impacted by the LongMile recall so long as appropriate documentation, as provided by Cleaire, is carried with the affected vehicle at all times. Additionally, this recall will not impact or otherwise affect the ability of fleets to retain early compliance credits that may have been accrued with the installation of the original LongMile system.

Background

ARB has adopted a number of regulations that require diesel engine owners to take steps to reduce their engine emissions. Nearly all trucks and buses with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds that operate in California are required to be upgraded to reduce exhaust emissions between now and 2023. To comply with these requirements, fleet owners can upgrade existing engines by installing verified diesel PM filters, or by upgrading to cleaner engines or vehicles.

These regulations are part of the State's plan to meet federal ambient air quality standards and to protect public health.

LongMile systems that have components that must be replaced

All installed Cleaire LongMile systems require modification and some may need to be removed. Cleaire will complete these modifications over approximately a 24 month period free of charge. During the period of time covered by this recall, the fleet owner will be permitted to continue to operate any vehicle with a modified LongMile system. All modified LongMile systems which cannot be converted to a verified configuration prior to December 31, 2014 must be removed.

If Cleaire requires the entire LongMile system to be removed and does not have a suitable replacement system for the engine, Cleaire will notify the owner of this finding in writing. In these instances, Cleaire will arrange free of charge to have the LongMile removed and return the vehicle back to the original engine manufacturer's configuration. The fleet owner will have 90 days from the date of such notification to install another verified diesel PM filter or to otherwise bring the fleet into compliance.

Additionally for school buses, any removal or exchange of a LongMile system or its components requires a California Highway Patrol safety inspection of the school bus prior to returning the school bus to service.

For instances where the LongMile system cannot be replaced within the time allowed, fleet owners must suspend operation of the vehicle or apply to the appropriate ARB staff for an extension from the applicable rule.

These terms are typical for situations where a manufacturer identifies a problem with in-service systems, voluntarily reports to ARB, and offers to recall and repair or replace these systems free of charge.

LongMile systems that have been ordered but have not yet been installed

If the Cleaire LongMile PM filter was ordered prior to August 17, 2012, but not yet installed, then the fleet owner will have until January 31, 2013, to replace it with another verified diesel PM filter or to take other actions to bring the fleet into compliance. The fleet owner must keep copies of the original purchase in the cab of the vehicle and make it available to an ARB inspector upon request.

If a non-verified Cleaire PM filter was ordered on or after August 17, 2012, then the fleet owner will not receive additional time for installation of a verified diesel PM filter and will need to take any appropriate actions to bring the fleet into compliance before the next compliance date.

More Information

For further information about ARB's diesel regulations, please visit www.arb.ca.gov/truckstop, or call 1-866-6DIESEL (866-634-3735), or email us at 8666diesel@arb.ca.gov. For information about PM filters that are verified by ARB, please visit www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/decsinstall/decsinstall.htm.