



MOBILE6.2 Policy Update

On November 12, 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) posted an updated version of the MOBILE model, dubbed MOBILE6.2, on this Web site. EPA would like to clarify the relationship between MOBILE6 and MOBILE6.2, and how either version of the model can be used for official State Implementation Plan (SIP) and transportation conformity purposes at this time.

As background, EPA announced the release of MOBILE6 for official SIP and transportation conformity purposes on January 29, 2002 (67 FR 4254). MOBILE6 estimates motor vehicle emission rates for hydrocarbons (HC), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO). MOBILE6.2 is an updated version of MOBILE6 that adds the capability of estimating particulate matter (PM), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and air toxics emission rates to MOBILE6. Because it is an updated version of MOBILE6, MOBILE6.2 also estimates emission rates for HC, NO_x, and CO. MOBILE6.2 includes one new feature (i.e., the ability to use hourly humidity input), and some updates and corrections to methods used to estimate HC, NO_x, and CO emissions. These changes make MOBILE6.2 more reliable and easier to use than MOBILE6, but they do not significantly change the HC, NO_x, or CO emission rates estimated by the MOBILE model.

Given that the HC, NO_x, and CO emission rates are not significantly different between MOBILE6 and MOBILE6.2, EPA will accept the use of either version of the model in respect to ozone and CO for SIPs and conformity determinations. The release of MOBILE6.2 does not start a new conformity grace period for ozone or CO conformity determinations, and it does not trigger the need for any new ozone or CO SIPs. Guidance given in the January 18, 2002, EPA memo, "Policy Guidance on the Use of MOBILE6 for Ozone and CO SIP Development and Transportation Conformity," continues to apply in respect to ozone and CO SIPs and conformity determinations, regardless of whether MOBILE6 or MOBILE6.2 is used.

States may choose to continue using MOBILE6 in ozone or CO SIPs or conformity determinations that have already begun. However, given the improvements made in MOBILE6.2 and new improvements made to the model on an ongoing basis, we strongly encourage states to use the latest version of the MOBILE6 model posted on the Web site whenever any new ozone or CO SIP or conformity analysis is initiated.

MOBILE6.2 is not yet approved with respect to PM SIP development or conformity determinations. We are developing guidance on the use of MOBILE6.2 for PM. This guidance will be released when MOBILE6.2 is approved with respect to PM for SIPs and conformity.