

Improvements for Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Test Procedures, and other Technical Amendments

This action proposes to amend the regulations that implement EPA air pollutant emission standards for engines, vehicles, and mobile equipment in response to concerns raised by the regulated industry in recent years. The proposed amendments include corrections, clarifications, flexibilities and other minor changes that do not raise significant policy issues.

The majority of amendments being proposed would modify existing test procedures for heavy-duty highway engines and vehicles. These test procedure changes would improve accuracy, and in some cases, reduce test burden. They would apply for measurement of criteria pollutants (such as nitrogen oxides), as well as greenhouse gas pollutants (primarily carbon dioxide).

Other amendments related to heavy-duty highway engines and vehicles would update EPA regulations to enhance implementation of existing emission standards. Some amendments would make it easier for manufacturers to account for the emission benefits of advanced emission control technology, which could provide the opportunity to generate additional emission credits.

This notice also proposes other amendments that are generally administrative or technical in nature and include amendments for nonroad engines and vehicles. These amendments include an effort to streamline the regulations by eliminating obsolete pages from the Code of Federal Regulations.

The technical and administrative changes proposed in this action are not anticipated to affect the stringency of standards and would not impact the projected environmental benefits of these standards. Similarly, these changes are not anticipated to have adverse economic impacts.

Which Products would be Affected?

The proposed amendments would affect the emission certification of the following products:

- Light-duty vehicles
- Heavy-duty vehicles and engines
- Motorcycles (highway and nonroad)
- Marine engines
- Locomotives
- Other nonroad engines and equipment
- Stationary engines
- Portable fuel containers

Who would be Affected by these Changes?

The proposed changes would primarily affect manufacturers seeking certification of any of the affected products, including importers and secondary manufacturers. The changes to the emission test procedures would also affect anyone performing certification testing, such as independent test laboratories. However, other persons such as distributors and end-users may be indirectly affected by the proposed amendments.

Public Participation Opportunities

We welcome your comments on this proposed rule. Comments will be accepted for 45 days beginning when this proposal is published in the Federal Register. All comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0307 and submitted at www.regulations.gov. For additional submission methods, please visit www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets.

For More Information

You can access the rule and related documents on EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) website at:

www.epa.gov/vehicle-and-fuel-emissions-testing/engine-testing-regulations.