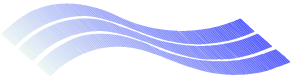


SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN



AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Compliance Assistance ADVISORY

**SUBJECT: Recent Changes to the Portable
Equipment Registration Program**

Advisory #07-01

January 2007

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OWNERS OF PORTABLE EQUIPMENT

In order to legally operate portable equipment in the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), the equipment must have a SMAQMD permit or a certificate of registration from the Californian Air Resources Board (CARB) Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP). This includes all portable engines and engine-driven equipment greater than fifty horsepower. Anyone operating this type of equipment without a SMAQMD permit or CARB registration is subject to penalties pursuant to Section 42402 of the California Health and Safety Code.

A portable engine is an internal combustion engine designed to be carried or moved from one location to another. Examples of portable engines and engine driven equipment include, but are not limited to, electrical generators, tub grinders, woodchippers, compressors, well drillers, pumps, and cranes.

Owners and operators of portable equipment are advised to check with the SMAQMD and CARB to determine which option is best for them – a SMAQMD permit or CARB registration. There are certain advantages and disadvantages to each program. For example, under the CARB program a given piece of equipment can operate in multiple air districts with just a single registration. However, it can not remain at a single location for more than twelve months, and typically there are notification requirements involved when the equipment is moved from one location to another.

Owners of portable equipment have found that certain units are not eligible for registration under the PERP and ineligible for permits from local districts due to the limitations of the PERP program and/or the requirements of the Portable Compression Engine Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM). To address this problem, CARB adopted emergency amendments to the PERP and the ATCM on December 7, 2006.

The emergency amendments provide another opportunity for resident Tier 1 and Tier 2 engines to be registered under the PERP. Prior to these amendments, the PERP program allowed only engines meeting current Tier standards (Tier 3 in most cases) to be registered. In addition, the ATCM prohibited local districts from permitting these engines, leaving operators with little choice between not operating and operating in violation.

The opportunity to register resident Tier 1 and 2 engines in the PERP will be in effect until December 31, 2009. PERP registration fees for older, previously unpermitted units are based on a sliding scale depending on the age of the engine and when an application is submitted -- the older the unit, the longer one waits to register, the higher the fee. Older engines not meeting a Tier standard, also referred to as Tier 0 engines, are still not eligible for registration under the PERP, but may, in some cases, obtain a local permit due to changes to the ATCM.

For more information on the PERP program including the registration forms and fees, visit CARB's website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/portable/portable.htm>. For more information on SMAQMD permits, call Mark Loutzenhiser at (916) 874-4872. You may also call the Compliance Assistance Hotline at (916) 874-4884 or visit our web site at <http://www.airquality.org/>.