

FAQ on California Air Resources Board Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program

What is the Statewide Registration Program?

The Statewide Registration Program (Program) establishes a uniform program to regulate portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units. Once registered in the program, engines and equipment units can operate throughout the State of California without the need to get individual permits from local air districts. Districts are pre-empted from permitting, registering, or regulating portable engines and portable equipment units registered with the Air Resources Board (ARB) except at locations where the registration is not valid. However, local air districts are responsible for enforcing the program, can collect fees for inspection and levy heavy fines for violations.

The Statewide Registration Program was adopted on March 27, 1997 by the ARB. Subsequent revisions to the Program were adopted on December 11, 1998 and became effective December 1, 1999. Other changes were adopted on February 26, 2004 with an effective date of September 1, 2005 and most recently, ARB adopted another set of changes on June 22, 2006, which will likely become effective by the end of the year, unless challenged in court or stayed by the Legislature.

This latest revision makes it illegal to operate unregistered equipment—you can be fined for just having it on the job site. In addition, if the equipment does not meet the standards set out below (see *What are the requirements for unregistered portable engines?*) you will be required to replace the equipment with units that do meet the standards.

Who is eligible to register?

Owners and operators of portable engines and portable equipment units that meet the definitions and requirements of the program are eligible for registration. A portable engine is an internal combustion engine which is designed and capable of being carried or moved from one location to another and does not remain at a single location for more than 12 consecutive months. Engines used to propel mobile equipment or a motor vehicle of any kind are not eligible for registration. A portable equipment unit is a portable piece of engine-driven equipment that is associated with, and driven solely by, a portable engine and emits pollutants over and above the emissions of the portable engine.

Portable engines include, but are not limited to, internal combustion engines used in the following:

- cranes, except lattice cranes
- pumps
- welding
- well drilling
- wood chippers
- tactical support equipment
- power generation
- diesel pile-driving hammers
- service or work-over rigs
- dredges on boats or barges
- compressors

Portable equipment units include, but are not limited to, the following portable engine-associated units:

- confined and unconfined abrasive blasting operations
- concrete batch plants
- tub grinders and trommel screens

- sand & gravel screening, rock or pavement crushing and recycling operations

What are the requirements for unregistered portable engines?

If your equipment was not registered by January 1, 2006 you must meet the following requirements to register under the new rules.

Engines can meet PERP eligibility requirements in any one of five ways:

1. A "certified" engine. A certified engine is one which has been tested by U.S. EPA or ARB and meets the most current federal off-road engine emission standards. Certified engines will have an emissions information label showing an "engine family name." This engine family name must be provided to ARB as part of the application.
2. A "certified" engine which does not meet the most current federal off-road engine emission standards but holds a valid permit. Applicants must provide a copy of the valid district permit.
3. A "resident" engine. A resident engine is a noncertified engine which holds a current permit to operate from an air district. Applicants must provide documentation showing the engine met the residency requirements.
4. A "controlled" engine. A controlled engine is one which meets the spark-ignition engine standards in Table I of the PERP regulation, an engine retrofitted with a Clean Cam technology kit, or an engine which is equipped with a selective catalytic reduction system. Applicants must submit to ARB documentation showing the control efficiency and controlled emission factors for the technology employed.
5. A "flex" engine. A flex engine is one which is built according to the flexibility provisions for equipment and vehicle manufacturers pursuant to 40 CFR part 89 or Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. Applicants must provide a photograph of the engine label to prove the engine is a flex engine.

What are the requirements for portable equipment units?

Portable equipment units registered in the program are required to comply with established Best Available Control Technology requirements. Additional registration requirements include: a daily emission limit of 82 pounds per day of particulate matter smaller than 10 microns, an annual limit of 10 tons per year for any criteria pollutant, and recordkeeping requirements.

How is the program enforced?

The local air districts have primary enforcement responsibility. The ARB or the districts may conduct inspections at any time to verify and ensure compliance with the program requirements. At this point **only new equipment can be registered in either the state-wide or the district programs. Unregistered older or used equipment is no longer allowed to be permitted under these programs and are, in fact, illegal to operate in the state of California.**

SIX ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN 6/22/06 ARB PORTABLE EQUIPMENT REGULATION AMENDMENT TO GO INTO EFFECT LATER THIS YEAR

a. Home District Designation

The amendments require owners of registered engines and equipment units under the statewide program to designate a home district. A home district would be the district in which the registered engine or equipment unit would reside most of the time. Owners currently holding valid registrations would be required within ninety days of the effective date of the Statewide Regulation to notify the ARB of their home district designation.

b. Hour Meters

The amendments require that all engines have a functional, non-resettable hour meter or equivalent device installed on the engine. Owners holding valid registrations would be required within six months of the effective date of the Statewide Regulation to install an hour meter or equivalent device and notify ARB in writing that the installation had been completed. New applications will not be accepted unless an hour meter or equivalent device had been installed on the portable engine.

c. Placards

The amendments require owners and operators of registered engines and equipment units to obtain a placard that identifies the engine or equipment unit as being registered in the Statewide Program. The placard would be required to be mounted to the engine or equipment unit in a conspicuous place.

The placard will cost \$5.00 each and will be required upon the first renewal for existing participants or at the time of initial registration for new applicants. A replacement placard will be required if the placard were damaged or lost. The replacement cost will be \$30.00 each.

d. Recordkeeping and Reporting

The amendments will require all owners and operators of portable engines and equipment units that are not already doing so to keep records onsite to track operation or process throughput. The records will have to be maintained for a minimum of five years and made available to the district or ARB upon request.

Owners of registered engines and equipment units must submit annual reports to ARB. In addition, districts will submit an annual report summarizing the district inspections.

e. Notification Requirements

The amendments will require owners and operators of equipment units to notify the district when an equipment unit would be operated at a location for more than five days. Because of the transient nature of equipment units, the notification requirements will ensure that districts are aware of equipment unit operations within their jurisdiction.

f. District Inspections and Fees

The amendments will require that within 45 days after the initial issuance of a registration or renewal, the owner or operator must contact the district to arrange for an inspection of the registered engine or equipment unit. The inspection must be completed within one year of the initial registration or renewal. The time for the inspection must be mutually agreed upon in advance. If the inspection does not occur, the inspection must be rescheduled within 90 days. If a registered engine or equipment unit will be out of California for that year, the owner or operator must arrange for an inspection within 30 days upon return of the registered engine or equipment unit into California.

The district inspection fee for registered engines will be increased from \$75.00 per inspection per year to \$345.00 (\$315.00 home district inspection fee and \$30.00 general district inspection fee) every three years. In addition, a multiple engine discount will apply if owners make arrangements with the home district to inspect multiple engines at one time.

The district equipment unit inspection fee will be increased from \$75.00 per inspection to \$98.00 per hour, not to exceed \$500.00, plus a general inspection fee of \$75.00 every three years. For TSE, An annual general district inspection fee of \$10.00 per TSE unit will be required.

How are renewals done?

Approximately 90 days prior to the registration expiration date, ARB will send a billing invoice. The basic fee applies for payments received 60 days prior to expiration. Payments made later than 60 days

prior must include penalty fees. Units which expire may not be eligible for renewal and there is an additional fee for renewal of an expired unit.

The ARB requires that you include a copy of the billing invoice with renewal payments. Incorrect payments or payments without invoices will be returned to you.

Is more information available?

Information about the Statewide Registration Program can be obtained via the internet through ARB's web page at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/portable/perp/perp.htm> , but it has not been updated (as of July 11, 2006) to take into account the newly adopted regulations

Application forms can be [downloaded](#) and mailed directly to the ARB at: ARB/PERP, P.O. Box 2038, Sacramento, CA 95812-2038

Program information and applications can be obtained in person from the ARB staff located on the sixth floor at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California

Information can also be obtained by contacting the Statewide Registration Program Information Line at (916) 324-5869, or sending electronic mail to portable@arb.ca.gov. Alternatively, you can write to the above post office box for more information.

[Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program](#)

Information prepared from Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition, California Air Resources Board and other sources, effective as of July 13, 2006 and subject to update as new information becomes available. For more information contact Mike Lewis at CIAQC via email: mike@lewisandco.net