

A resolution for passage by the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF)

Currently, all nonroad diesel engines including agricultural engines are regulated under “Tier III” emission standard aimed at a reduction of emissions which have to be attained by 2008.

In May 2003, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rulemaking that sets forth a national plan to regulate nonroad diesel engines and fuel (“Control of Emissions of Air Pollution from Nonroad Diesel Engines and Fuel”, Docket ID No. A-2001-28). Farm equipment and small engines are classified as nonroad engines and uses. The AAQTF is concerned that the proposed rule significantly affects farmers, ranchers and foresters, as well as the national agricultural economy as a whole.

The AAQTF requests that USDA be directly involved with EPA in promulgating a final version of the nonroad diesel regulation. This involvement should include consultation on the proposed rule’s impact on farming and ranching operations, and the agricultural sector as a whole. Specific concerns are:

- Increased costs of fuels and engines
- Increased fuel consumption for new generation engines
- Engine oil compatibility with different control devices
- Potential fire hazards related to higher operating temperatures for control devices
- Additional size and weight of equipment
- Opportunities for the expanded use of renewable fuel/fuel additives
- Applicable/available technology for engine adaptation
- Assessment of practicality of timelines and percentages for emissions reductions for each applicable pollutant (NO_x, SO_x, and PM),
- Economic justifications for increasing emissions reductions from the current level.