

FACTS ABOUT

Short-Haul Exemptions

Tractor-Trailer Greenhouse Gas Regulation

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved the Tractor-Trailer Greenhouse Gas regulation to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by certain heavy-duty tractor-trailers. The regulation requires the use of United States Environmental Protection Agency SmartWay verified aerodynamic equipment and low rolling resistance (LRR) tires on tractor-trailers operating on California highways. The regulation also provides an exemption for certain tractors (and the trailers they pull) that drive a limited number of miles per year, as explained in this document.

Who is affected by the regulation?

This regulation applies to all 53-foot or longer box-type trailers, including dry-van and refrigerated-van trailers operating in California, and the heavy-duty tractors that pull them. Recent amendments to the regulation now exempt 2014 model year and newer heavy-duty tractors from the requirements of this regulation, since they must meet requirements of the federal Heavy-Duty Greenhouse Gas regulations. For more information, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/climate/regs-heavy-duty.htm>. However, these newer model year tractors may still be registered for the short haul exemption, as explained below.

What are the requirements to qualify for the short-haul tractor exemption?

A short-haul tractor is an affected tractor that travels less than 50,000 miles per year (total mileage in and out of California). It must be registered with ARB for the exemption.

What does the short-haul tractor exemption offer?

If registered with ARB and updated on an annual basis, a short-haul tractor is exempt from all the requirements of this regulation and the affected trailer it pulls in California is also exempt. What this means is:

- A 2011 through 2013 model year tractor used exclusively for short-haul purposes, and registered as such with ARB, is not subject to any aerodynamic requirements, not required to be SmartWay certified, and not required to have low rolling resistance tires.
- An older (2010 and older) tractor is not subject to aerodynamic requirements, but is required to use SmartWay verified low rolling resistance tires. If used exclusively for short-haul purposes and registered as such with ARB, it is also exempt from the low rolling resistance tire requirements.
- A 2014 or newer model year tractor that travels less than 50,000 miles per year, although not subject to the requirements of this regulation, may be registered as short haul so that the trailer it pulls will also be exempt from the aerodynamic and low rolling resistance tire requirements.

Is there an exemption for short-haul trailers?

Technically, this regulation does not define a “short-haul trailer,” and there is no registration for a short-haul trailer exemption. However, when an affected trailer is being pulled by an exempt short-haul tractor, it is automatically exempt from the requirements of this regulation. The exemption does not apply when the same trailer is pulled by a non-registered tractor.

What exemption does a trailer have when pulled by a short-haul tractor?

A trailer pulled by a registered short-haul tractor is exempt from using low rolling resistance tires and aerodynamic technologies. If the same trailer is pulled by a non-exempt tractor in California, the trailer would need to meet the tire and aerodynamic requirements of the regulation.

How do I register my short-haul tractor for the exemption?

ARB provides an on-line database called the Truck Regulation Upload Compliance and Reporting System (TRUCRS) through which you can register for the short-haul exemption. The database is available through ARB's website at https://ssl.arb.ca.gov/ssltrucrs/trucrs_reporting/reporting.php.

To register, the owner or person leasing the tractor must submit information to ARB, including owner contact information, fleet information, and a signed agreement. The specific information that must be provided is available in the regulation.

How long will the short-haul exemption be in effect?

Since the short-haul exemption is based on driving less than 50,000 miles per year, the exemption must be renewed annually, by reporting the total number of miles traveled, both in and out of California. Annual reports must be made before the anniversary of a tractor's date of registration, but no earlier than 30 days prior to it. The exemption may be renewed each year for as long as the tractor travels within the 50,000 mile per year limit. However, if the tractor operates more than 50,000 miles in a year, it will lose its exemption and cannot reapply for the short-haul exemption until 36 months from the date it lost its exemption.

Where can I find more information about the regulation?

Fact sheets, compliance tools, and regulatory documents are available at www.arb.ca.gov/cc/hdghg/hdghg.htm or by calling ARB's diesel hotline at (866) 6DIESEL (634-3735). You may also obtain this document in an alternative format by contacting ARB at: (916) 322-4505 (voice); (916) 324-9531 (TDD, Sacramento area only); or (800) 700-8326 (TDD, outside Sacramento). TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.