

emissions from diesel engines. The following section describes the challenges to applying these diesel engine technologies to engines and equipment designed for nonroad applications.

2. Can These Technologies Be Applied to Nonroad Engines and Equipment?

The emission standards and the introduction dates for those standards, as described earlier in this section, are premised on the transfer of diesel engine technologies being or already developed to meet light-duty and heavy-duty vehicle standards that begin in 2007. The standards that we are proposing today for engines ≥ 75 horsepower will begin to go into effect four years later. This time lag between equivalent highway and nonroad diesel engine standards is necessary in order to allow time for engine and equipment manufacturers to further develop these highway technologies for nonroad engines and to align this program with nonroad Tier 3 emission standards that begin to go into effect in 2006.

As discussed previously, the test procedures and regulations for the HD2007 highway engines include a transient test procedure, a broad steady-state procedure, and NTE provisions that require compliant engines to emit at or below 1.5 times the regulated emission levels under virtually all conditions. An engine designed to comply with the 2007 highway emission standards would comply with the equivalent nonroad emission standards proposed today if it were to be tested over the transient and steady-state nonroad emission test procedures proposed today, which cover the same regions and types of engine operation. Said in another way, a highway diesel engine produced in 2007 could be certified in compliance with the transient and steady-state standards proposed today for nonroad diesel engines several years in advance of the date when these standards would go into effect. However, that engine, while compliant with certain of the nonroad emission standards proposed today, would not necessarily be designed to address the various durability and performance requirements of many nonroad equipment manufacturers. We expect that the engine manufacturers will need additional time to further develop the necessary emission control systems to address some of the nonroad issues described below as well as to develop the appropriate calibrations for engine rated speed and torque characteristics required by the diverse range of nonroad equipment. Furthermore, not all nonroad engine

manufacturers produce highway diesel engines or produce nonroad engines that are developed from highway products. Therefore, there is a need for lead time between the Tier 3 emission standards which go into effect in 2006–2008 and the Tier 4 emission standards. We believe the technologies developed to comply with the Tier 3 emission standards such as improved air handling systems and electronic fuel systems will form an essential technology baseline which manufacturers will need to initiate and control the various regeneration functions required of the catalyst based technologies for Tier 4. The Agency has given consideration to all of these issues in setting the emission standards and the timing of those standards as proposed today.

This section describes some of the challenges to applying advanced emission control technologies to nonroad engines and equipment, and why we believe that technologies developed for highway diesel engines can be further refined to address these issues in a timely manner for nonroad engines consistent with the emission standards proposed today. This section paraphrases a more in-depth analysis in the draft RIA.

a. Nonroad Operating Conditions and Exhaust Temperatures

Nonroad equipment is highly diverse in design, application, and typical operating conditions. This variety of operating conditions affects emission control systems through the resulting variety in the torque and speed demands (*i.e.* power demands). This wide range in what constitutes typical nonroad operation makes the design and implementation of advanced emission control technologies more difficult. The primary concern for catalyst based emission control technologies is exhaust temperature. In general, exhaust temperature increases with engine power and can vary dramatically as engine power demands vary.

For most catalytic emission control technologies there is a minimum temperature below which the chemical reactions necessary for emission control do not occur. The temperature above which substantial catalytic activity is realized is often called the light-off temperature. For gasoline engines, the light-off temperature is typically only important in determining cold start emissions. Once gasoline vehicle exhaust temperatures exceed the light-off temperature, the catalyst is “lit-off” and remains fully functional under all operating conditions. Diesel exhaust is significantly cooler than gasoline

exhaust due to the diesel engine’s higher thermal efficiency and its operation under predominantly lean conditions. Absent control action taken by an electronic engine control system, diesel exhaust may fall below the light-off temperature of catalyst technology even when the vehicle is fully warmed up.

The relationship between the exhaust temperature of a nonroad diesel engine and light-off temperature is an important factor for both CDPF and NO_x adsorber technologies. For the CDPF technology, exhaust temperature determines the rate of filter regeneration and if too low causes a need for supplemental means to ensure proper filter regeneration. In the case of the CDPF, it is the aggregate soot regeneration rate that is important, not the regeneration rate at any particular moment in time. A CDPF controls PM emissions under all conditions and can function properly (*i.e.*, not plug) even when exhaust temperatures are low for an extended time and the regeneration rate is lower than the soot accumulation rate, provided that occasionally exhaust temperatures and thus the soot regeneration rate are increased enough to regenerate the CDPF. A CDPF can passively (without supplemental heat addition) regenerate if exhaust temperatures remain above 250°C for more than 30 percent of engine operation.¹⁶⁴ Similarly, there is a minimum temperature (*e.g.*, 200°C) for NO_x adsorbers below which NO_x regeneration is not readily possible and a maximum temperature (*e.g.*, 500°C) above which NO_x adsorbers are unable to effectively store NO_x. These minimum and maximum temperatures define a characteristic temperature window of the NO_x adsorber catalyst. When the exhaust temperature is within the temperature window (above the minimum and below the maximum) the catalyst is highly effective. When exhaust temperatures fall outside this window of operation, NO_x adsorber effectiveness is diminished. Therefore, there is a need to match diesel exhaust temperatures to conditions for effective catalyst operation under the various operating conditions of nonroad engines.

Although the range of products for highway vehicles is not as diverse as for nonroad equipment, the need to match exhaust temperatures to catalyst characteristics is still present. This is a significant concern for highway engine

¹⁶⁴ Engelhard DPX catalyzed diesel particulate filter retrofit verification, www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/techlist-engelhard.htm, a copy of this information is available in Air Docket A-2001-28.