

EPA to adopt comparable provisions in a Tier 4 rule. *See* Report of the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel, section 8.4.1 (Dec. 23, 2002). Therefore, with a few exceptions described in more detail below, we are proposing to adopt transition provisions for Tier 4 in this notice that are similar to those adopted with the previous Tier 2/3 rulemaking. The following section describes the proposed transition provisions available to equipment manufacturers. (Section VII.C. of today's notice describes all of the proposed provisions that would be available specifically for small businesses.)

Our experience to date with the transition provisions for the Tier 2/3 standards above 50 horsepower is limited. In the one power category where manufacturers have been required to submit information on the number of engines using the allowances (engines between 300 and 600 horsepower), approximately 20 percent of the engines in the category are relying on the allowances in the first year that the Tier 2 standards apply. (For the power categories below 50 horsepower, manufacturers are reporting that there are very few engines using allowances. However, given the level of the Tier 1 standards, we would not expect there to have been much need for equipment redesign to handle Tier 1 engines.) While this information is useful, we do not believe there is enough information available to determine if the level of the existing allowances should be revised for the Tier 4 proposal. For this reason, we are primarily relying on the provisions of the Tier 2/3 equipment manufacturer transition provisions for the Tier 4 proposal. However, as described in more detail below, we are proposing to add notification, reporting, and labeling requirements to the Tier 4 proposal, which are not required in the existing transition provisions for equipment manufacturers. We believe these additional proposed provisions are necessary for EPA to gain a better understanding of the extent to which these provisions will be used and to ensure compliance with the Tier 4 transition provisions. We are also proposing new provisions dealing specifically with foreign equipment manufacturers and the special concerns raised by the use of the transition provisions for equipment imported into the U.S.

As under the existing provisions, equipment manufacturers would not be obligated to use any of these provisions, but all equipment manufacturers would be eligible to do so. Also, as under the existing program, we are proposing that all entities under the control of a

common entity, and that meet the definition in the regulations of a nonroad vehicle or nonroad equipment manufacturer contained in the regulations, would have to be considered together for the purposes of applying exemption allowances. This would not only provide certain benefits for the purpose of pooling exemptions, but would also preclude the abuse of the small-volume allowances that would exist if companies could treat each operating unit as a separate equipment manufacturer.

2. What Transition Provisions Are We Proposing for Equipment Manufacturers?

a. Percent-of-Production Allowance

Under the proposed percent-of-production allowance, each equipment manufacturer may install engines not certified to the proposed Tier 4 emission standards in a limited percentage of machines produced for the U.S. market. Equipment manufacturers would need to provide written assurance to the engine manufacturer that such engines are being procured for the purpose of the transition provisions for equipment manufacturers. These engines would instead have to be certified to the standards that would apply in the absence of the Tier 4 standards (*i.e.*, Tier 2 for engines below 50 horsepower, Tier 3 for engines between 50 and 750 horsepower,³⁰¹ and Tier 2 for engines above 750 horsepower). This percentage would apply separately to each of the proposed Tier 4 power categories (engines below 25 horsepower, engines between 25 and 75 horsepower, engines between 75 and 175 horsepower, engines between 175 and 750 horsepower, and engines above 750 horsepower) and is expressed as a cumulative percentage of 80 percent over the seven years beginning when the Tier 4 standards first apply in a category. No exemptions would be allowed after the seventh year. For example, an equipment manufacturer could install engines certified to the Tier 3 standards in 40 percent of its entire 2011 production of nonroad equipment that use engines rated between 175 and 750 horsepower, 30 percent of its entire 2012 production in this horsepower category, and 10 percent of its entire 2013 production in this horsepower category. (During the transitional period for the Tier 4 standards, the fifty percent of engines that would be allowed to certify to the

previous tier NO_x standard but meet the Tier 4 PM standard would be considered as Tier 4-compliant engines for the purpose of the equipment manufacturer transition provisions.) If the same manufacturer were to produce equipment using engines rated above 750 horsepower, a separate cumulative percentage allowance of 80 percent would apply to these machines during the seven years beginning in 2011. This proposed percent-of-production allowance is almost identical to the percent-of-production allowance adopted in the October 1998 final rule, the difference being, as explained earlier, that we are proposing to have fewer power categories associated with the proposed Tier 4 standards.

The proposed 80 percent exemption allowance, were it to be used to its maximum extent by all equipment manufacturers, would bring about the introduction of cleaner engines several months later than would have occurred if the new standards were to be implemented on their effective dates. However, the equipment manufacturer flexibility program has been integrated with the standard-setting process from the initial development of this proposal, and as such we believe it is a key factor in assuring that there is sufficient lead time to initiate the Tier 4 standards according to the proposed schedule.³⁰²

Machines that use engines built before the effective date of the proposed Tier 4 standards would not be included in an equipment manufacturer's percent of production calculations under this allowance. Machines that use engines certified to the previous tier of standards under our Small Business provisions (as described in Section VII.C. of this proposal) would not be included in an equipment manufacturer's percent of production calculations under this allowance. All engines certified to the Tier 4 standards, including those engines that produce emissions at higher levels than the

³⁰² For emissions modeling purposes, we have assumed that manufacturers take full advantage of the existing allowances under the transition program for equipment manufacturers in establishing the emissions baseline. This assumption is based on information provided to us by engine manufacturers for model year 2001, which shows that approximately 20 percent of the engines in the 300–600 horsepower category are relying on the allowances in the first year that the Tier 2 standards apply. In modeling the Tier 4 program, because the program will not take effect for many years and it is not possible to accurately forecast use of the proposed transition program for equipment manufacturers and to assess costs in a conservative manner, we have assumed that all engines will meet the Tier 4 standards in the timeframe proposed. As discussed in section V.C., this is consistent with our cost analysis, which assumes no use of the proposed transition program for equipment manufacturers.

³⁰¹ Under this proposal, for engines between 50 and 75 horsepower, the NMHC+NO_x standard that would apply in Tier 4 is the same as the existing Tier 3 NMHC+NO_x standard.