

Applications for hardship relief would have to be made in writing, and would need to be submitted before the earliest date of noncompliance. The application would also have to include evidence that failure to comply was not the fault of the equipment manufacturer (such as a supply contract broken by the engine supplier), and would need to include evidence that serious economic hardship to the company would result if relief is not granted. We would work with the applicant to ensure that all other remedies available under the flexibility provisions were exhausted before granting additional relief, if appropriate, and would limit the period of relief to no more than one year. Applications for hardship relief generally will only be accepted during the first year after the effective date of an applicable new emission standard.

The Agency expects this provision would be rarely used. This expectation has been supported by our initial experience with the Tier 2 standards in which only one equipment manufacturer has applied under the hardship relief provisions. Requests for hardship relief would be evaluated by EPA on a case-by-case basis, and may require, as a condition of granting the applications, that the equipment manufacturer agree (in writing) to some appropriate measure to recover the lost environmental benefit.

#### d. Existing Inventory Allowance

The current program for nonroad diesel engines includes a provision for equipment manufacturers to continue to use engines built prior to the effective date of new standards, until the older engine inventories are depleted. It also prohibits stockpiling of previous tier engines. We are proposing to extend these provisions as manufacturers transition to the standards contained in this proposal. We are also proposing to extend the existing provision that provides an exception to the applicable compliance regulations for the sale of replacement engines. In proposing to extend this provision, we are requiring that engines built to replace certified engines be identical in all material respects to an engine of a previously certified configuration that is of the same or later model year as the engine being replaced. The term "identical in all material respects" would allow for minor differences that would not reasonably be expected to affect emissions.

### 3. What Are the Recordkeeping, Notification, Reporting, and Labeling Requirements Associated With the Equipment Manufacturer Transition Provisions?

#### a. Recordkeeping Requirements for Engine and Equipment Manufacturers

We are proposing to extend the recordkeeping requirements from the current equipment manufacturer transition program. Under the proposed requirements, engine manufacturers would be allowed to continue to build and sell previous tier engines needed to meet the market demand created by the equipment manufacturer flexibility program, provided they receive written assurance from the engine purchasers that such engines are being procured for this purpose. We are proposing that engine manufacturers would be required to keep copies of the written assurance from the engine purchasers for at least five full years after the final year in which allowances are available for each power category.

Equipment manufacturers choosing to take advantage of the proposed Tier 4 allowances would be required to: (1) Keep records of the production of all pieces of equipment excepted under the allowance provisions for at least five full years after the final year in which allowances are available for each power category; (2) include in such records the serial and model numbers and dates of production of equipment and installed engines, and the rated power of each engine, (3) calculate annually the number and percentage of equipment made under these transition provisions to verify compliance that the allowances have not been exceeded in each power category; and (4) make these records available to EPA upon request.

#### b. Notification Requirements for Equipment Manufacturers

We are also proposing some new notification requirements for equipment manufacturers with the Tier 4 program. Under this proposal, equipment manufacturers wishing to participate in the Tier 4 transition provisions would be required to notify EPA prior to their use of the Tier 4 transition provisions. Equipment manufacturers would be required to submit their notification before the first calendar year in which they intend to use the transition provisions. We believe that prior notification will not be a significant burden to the equipment manufacturer, but will greatly enhance our ability to ensure compliance. Indeed, EPA believes that in order for an equipment manufacturer to properly use either of the allowances provided, it would

already have the information required in the notification. Thus we are not requiring additional planning or information gathering beyond that which the equipment manufacturer must already be doing in order to ensure its compliance with the regulations. Under the proposed notification requirements, each equipment manufacturer would be required to notify EPA in writing and provide the following information:

- (1) The nonroad equipment manufacturer's name, address, and contact person's name, phone number;
- (2) the allowance program that the nonroad equipment manufacturer intends to use by power category;
- (3) the calendar years in which the nonroad equipment manufacturer intends to use the exception;
- (4) an estimation of the number of engines to be exempted under the transition provisions by power category;
- (5) the name and address of the engine manufacturer from whom the equipment manufacturer intends to obtain exempted engines; and
- (6) identification of the equipment manufacturer's prior use of Tier 2/3 transition provisions.

EPA is requesting comment on whether the notification provisions should also apply to the current Tier 2/Tier 3 transition program, and if so, how these provisions should be phased in for equipment manufacturers using the current Tier 2/Tier 3 transition provisions. EPA believes such a notification provision could be implemented as soon as 2005 and requests comments on the appropriate start date should we adopt such a notification provision for equipment manufacturers for the Tier 2/Tier 3 transition program.

#### c. Reporting Requirements for Engine and Equipment Manufacturers

As with the current program, engine manufacturers who participate in the proposed Tier 4 program would be required to annually submit information on the number of such engines produced and to whom the engines are provided, in order to help us monitor compliance with the program and prevent abuse of the program.

We are proposing new reporting requirement for equipment manufacturers participating in the Tier 4 equipment manufacturer transition provisions. Under this proposal, equipment manufacturers participating in the program would be required to submit an annual written report to EPA that calculates its annual number of exempted engines under the transition provisions by power category in the