

7.11 Anti-Idling Policy

Policy Statement

When using government owned, leased or rented vehicles or motorized equipment, or privately owned vehicles for government business, employees will make every effort to eliminate unnecessary idling. Emissions from vehicle idling are unnecessary and easily prevented with the turn of a key.

Policy Objectives

Eliminating unnecessary idling is a no-cost action employees can take to help:

- reduce the environmental impact of government operations
- save fuel and money
- decrease wear and tear on engine parts

Application

This policy applies to the use of all motor vehicles and motorized equipment owned, leased, or rented for government business, including provincially operated ferries and privately owned vehicles being used for government purposes. This policy applies to departments and offices of government (Category I applicability).

Policy Directives

Unnecessary idling will be restricted on government-owned, leased or rented vehicles and motorized equipment, and on private vehicles used for government business, as outlined in the procedures listed below.

PROCEDURES

I. Idling Restrictions

Motor vehicles and motorized equipment shall not be permitted to:

- I. Stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition and removing the key;
- II. Idle in a parked position for a period of more than 60 seconds; and
- III. Idle within 30 metres of an intake for a building ventilation system, an open window of a place of employment, or an entrance to a place of employment.

2. Exemptions

Idling of a motor vehicle or motorized equipment is permitted only under the following conditions:

- I. The vehicle remains motionless due to on-highway traffic, a traffic device or signal, an emergency, or at the direction of a law enforcement official.
- II. A vehicle idles when operating defrosters, heaters, or air conditioners, to prevent a health or safety emergency or to provide clear vision for the operator during extreme weather conditions (i.e., snowstorms and extreme cold weather).
- III. A public safety or law enforcement vehicle or any other vehicle being used in an emergency capacity may idle while in an emergency or enforcement situation where required for functional purposes of the vehicle (e.g., emergency lighting).
- IV. The engine idles for the purpose of maintenance, servicing, repairing, or diagnostic purposes, if idling is required for such activity.
- V. A vehicle idles as part of a provincial or federal inspection program to verify that all equipment is in good working condition.
- VI. Idling of the engine is necessary to power work-related mechanical or electrical equipment other than for vehicle propulsion. This exemption does not apply when idling to operate non-essential on-board equipment.
- VII. A diesel engine is required to idle to complete an active regeneration cycle on its diesel particulate filter (DPF).
- VIII. A ferry idles for a period no greater than 30 minutes while waiting to load or unload at a location under their control.

Accountability

All employees who operate motorized vehicles/equipment are responsible for ensuring the vehicles/equipment are operated in accordance with this policy. All deputy ministers, directors, managers, and supervisors are responsible for ensuring their employees comply with this policy.

Monitoring

The Department of Environment and Climate Change will be responsible for the review and modification of this policy. This policy should be reviewed every three years.

References

Auto Smart, Natural Resources Canada
EPA Office Draft of State Idle Reduction Model Law

Enquiries

Department of Environment and Climate Change
(902) 424-3600

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