**What is Act 124?**

Pennsylvania’s Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act (Act 124), reduces unnecessary idling of the main propulsion engine in diesel-powered motor vehicles, including trucks and buses, by imposing time limits while engaged in commerce. Act 124 restricts diesel idling to 5 minutes in any continuous 60-minute time period for diesel-powered vehicles with a gross weight of 10,001 pounds or more engaged in commerce.

**What is meant by the term ‘engaged in commerce’ as used in Act 124?**

Any motor vehicle that has a business name or logo visible on the outside of the vehicle is considered ‘engaged in commerce’ under Act 124. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicles carrying a load or a trailer and vehicles on their way to pick up a load or trailer.

**Who is subject to the requirements of Act 124?**

Owners and operators of any diesel-powered motor vehicle with a gross weight of 10,001 pounds or more, engaged in commerce, must comply with Act 124. The Act also prohibits the owners and operators of locations where subject vehicles load, unload or park from allowing the engine of the vehicle to idle for more than 5 minutes in any continuous 60-minute period.

**What types of vehicles are exempt from the requirements of Act 124?**

Motor homes, commercial implements of husbandry, implements of husbandry, farm equipment, and farm vehicles are not covered by Act 124.

**Are there exemptions to allow idling longer than five minute?**

Yes. Below are the exemptions:

* Buses, school buses, and school vehicles may idle for 15 minutes in a continuous 60-minute period when passengers are on board.
* Idling is permitted when it is necessary for specific maintenance, repair activity or state or federal inspection being performed.
* Solid waste hauling vehicles are exempt from idling restrictions when the truck is actively engaged in the collection of solid waste or source-separated recyclable materials.
* Idling is permitted if the vehicle must idle to operate cargo refrigeration equipment in order to prevent a safety or health emergency.
* If a vehicle is disabled by extreme weather so that it is unable to move, but still has an operable engine, the engine may be used to provide heating or cooling.
* Emergency vehicles when engaged in an emergency or training mode, and not for the driver’s convenience.
* Utility service vehicles may idle when they are being used in an emergency, public safety, or training mode, and not for the driver’s convenience.

**Who has the authority to enforce the idling restrictions of Act 124?**

State and local law enforcement officials and DEP personnel are authorized to enforce Act 124.

**What are the penalties for violating the requirements of Act 124?**

Failure to comply with Act 124 could result in a summary offense. A conviction will result in a fine ranging from $150-$300, plus court costs. DEP is also authorized to assess civil penalties not to exceed $1,000 per day for each violation of Act 124.