

Update on EPA's Proposed Tier 3 Rule

EPA's Tier 3 rule currently in pre-proposal stage aims to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants from cars and light-duty trucks. It also proposes to reduce sulfur in gasoline fuel. The standards in this rule will lead to reductions in ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and mobile source air toxics.

This rule includes tailpipe standards for NO_x, VOCs, and PM and evaporative emission standards and intends to harmonize with CA LEV III. The rule is expected to include a requirement to lower gasoline sulfur to an average of 10 ppm. Lowering the sulfur content of gasoline allows pollution control equipment (3-way catalysts) on cars and trucks to operate more effectively.

This rule will reduce NO_x from existing vehicles by about 25%. Emission reductions from the in-use fleet would be achieved concurrent with the introduction of the cleaner fuel, without the need for fleet turnover.

EPA was expected to propose the Tier 3 rule in early 2012 and finalize in late 2012, but has obviously fallen behind the deadlines.

Recent Actions

Pre-proposal initialed on:	February 18, 2011
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