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**EPA Amends Standards for Emissions from Stationary  
Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines**  
*Rules will impact emergency engines*

By: [William F. Harrison, Esq.](#) and [Erin K. Phalon, Esq.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued final amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for stationary Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE). The regulation applies to owners and operators of existing and new stationary RICE at major and area sources of hazardous air pollutant emissions. The rules will impact stationary engines that generate electricity and power equipment at industrial, agricultural, oil and gas production and power generation facilities. EPA states that the rulemaking will reduce emissions of pollutants including hazardous air pollutants (HAP), carbon monoxide, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

EPA issued the final amendments as a result of responses to the 2010 RICE NESHAP amendments including petitions for reconsideration, legal challenges, and communications raising issues related to implementation, and information that had not been brought to the EPA's attention during the 2010 rulemaking. EPA estimates that the final amendments will reduce the capital and annual costs of the original 2010 amendments by \$287 million and \$139 million, respectively. In addition, EPA estimates that annual health benefits of the updated standards are worth \$830 million to \$2.1 billion.

The amendments provide limits on the operation of stationary RICE to respond to emergency power needs. Prior to the 2010 RICE NESHAP amendments, existing emergency engines less than or equal to 500 horsepower (HP) located at major sources of HAP and existing emergency engines located at area sources of HAP were not regulated and could operate for unlimited periods.

Under the amended rule, 100 hours per year may be used to prevent blackouts and brownouts without meeting emission limits for maintenance and testing, emergency demand response for Energy Emergency Alert Level 2 situations, responding to situations when there is at least a 5 percent or more change in voltage, and operating for up to 50 hours to prevent voltage collapse or line overloads, that could cause local or regional power disruption. Emergency engines may operate in emergencies such as hurricanes and ice storms without meeting federal control requirements or emission limits.



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In addition, the rule provides fuel and reporting requirements for emergency engines larger than 100 HP used to avert potential voltage collapse or line overloads that could lead to an interruption of power supply in a local area or region, or used for more than 15 hours of emergency demand response per calendar year.

The rule also provides an alternative compliance demonstration procedure for stationary 4-stroke rich burn (4SRB) spark ignition (SI) engines subject to a 76 percent or more formaldehyde reduction requirement. Owners and operators of 4SRB engines will be permitted to demonstrate compliance with this requirement by demonstrating that the engine is achieving at least a 30 percent reduction of total hydrocarbons emissions. The rule states that this alternative compliance option is less expensive and less complex than, but as effective as, formaldehyde testing.

The final amendments also address management practices, rather than numeric emission limits and associated testing and monitoring, for owners and operators of existing stationary 4-stroke SI engines above 500 HP that are area sources of HAP emissions and where the engines are remote from human activity.

For the full text of the amended rule, which appeared in the January 30, 2013 Federal Register, please click [here](#).

For more information contact [William F. Harrison, Esq.](#) in the [Commercial Real Estate, Redevelopment and Environmental Law Practice Group](#) at [wharrison@genovaburns.com](mailto:wharrison@genovaburns.com) or (973) 535-4430.