Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor Commissions Approve Clean Trucks Tariff

Ban will phase out the oldest trucks to bring significant air quality improvements within five years.

The Los Angeles and Long Beach Boards of Harbor Commissioners have voted to ban the oldest, dirtiest trucks from operating at the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach, separately approving a tariff that will gradually limit access to all but the cleanest vehicles.

The Los Angeles vote on November 1 and the Long Beach vote on November 5 enacted a tariff that will result in an 80 percent cut in air pollution from short-haul or drayage trucks serving port cargo terminals. In Los Angeles, but not Long Beach, the tariff will also require mayoral and city council approval for adoption as a city ordinance.

The tariff is based on a progressive ban of the oldest trucks. The schedule is:
• Oct. 1, 2008: All pre-1989 trucks will be banned from port service.
• Jan. 1, 2012: All trucks that do not meet the 2007 federal standard will be banned.

“This tariff sets into motion our goal of modernizing the fleet of trucks that serve our ports by either replacing or retrofitting them to attain substantially lower emissions,” Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D. “We need to do this to meet the health standard we set for ourselves in the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan approved by Los Angeles and Long Beach harbor commissions last November.”

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“The Commission’s action will allow the Port of Long Beach to achieve steady progress in the effort to reduce air pollution. It’s a sensible plan that will help to aggressively clean the air while continuing the efficient movement of goods in and out of the Port,” said Richard D. Steinke, Port of Long Beach Executive Director.

The tariff’s ban will rely on an electronic identification system such as RFID - Radio Frequency Identification. RFID tags or similar technology will be placed in trucks, and tag readers will be installed at Port terminal gates to ensure access only for clean trucks.

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