LESSON LEARNT

PREPARED BY: Corporate QHSE Dept.

N°	05/2024	Date:	May 2024

OBJECT: VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT IDLING

DESCRIPTION

Idling refers to leaving a piece of equipment or a vehicle engine running while the equipment is not being used. Idling is a very common bad habit that pollutes and increases fuel consumption unnecessarily, costs money, leads to unnecessary wear and tear and could lead to fire hazards.
It is estimated that heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles combined wastes about 22 billion liters of fuel annually due to excessive idling practices [1] corresponding to 56 million tons of CO_2 emitted into the atmosphere: as much as an entire large company!

EXCEPTIONS

Under specific situations idling may be tolerated:

- The time strictly necessary for the equipment to be fully operational: less than 30 seconds for light vehicles, up to a maximum of 3 minutes for heavy equipment, and always with the operator/driver on board.
- Equipment involved in emergency support activity or needed for the execution of work are required to idle as deem necessary within reason by the operator.
- Vehicles or equipment having repairs, service or diagnostics performed, may require to be idled by a technician as strictly necessary, after a risk assessment.

If avoiding idling in any way impacts the safety of the operator or work operation, those requirements will supersede any idle reduction initiative.

- Vehicles or Equipment may need to idle for extended warm up periods for the purpose of defogging or defrosting windows prior operation only with an operator on board.
- Idling temporarily vehicle or equipment prior operation in extreme temperatures to limit personnel exposure only with an operator on board.

Drivers idling to defrost their vehicle windshield at the end of the shift

Excavator (on the left) stagged with the engine running while a 2nd one (on the right) is working

INSTRUCTIONS

- The operator / driver must never leave the vehicle/equipment running. The mechanic can only do this in controlled conditions (workshop and associated risk assessment).
- Operator should familiarize himself with the manufacturer engine temperature, idling and cool-down periods recommendations and follow it properly.
- During lunch breaks, shift change, or any extend period in which the equipment will not be operated, the operator should turn-off the engine.
- Operator and drivers should take in consideration their environment and avoid idling near open windows, doorways, air intake vents and personnel. Exhaust fumes extraction system installation should be considered for workshop or any other place in which vehicle and equipment are usually idled for diagnostics or services purposes.
- Under extreme conditions, auxiliary heating or cooling systems should be considered to limit equipment idling overextended periods of time.
- Critical operation equipment should be identified and marked to prevent any confusion with any idling policy in application (e.g.: lightning, dewatering measures, air compressors etc.).

"Use your company equipment/vehicle with care, as if it were your own!"

RECEPTION BY THE PROJECT	
WHICH ACTIONS IDENTIFIED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE PROJECT: _____ _____	
Project Manager: Signature:	**HSE Project Manager**: Signature:

1: US Dept. of Energy. Link: https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling_personal_vehicles.pdf