

**Public consultation on banning idling vehicles
with running engines**

Purpose

This note sets out the Administration's responses to Members' enquiries raised at the LegCo Environmental Affairs Panel meeting on 26 November 2007 in connection with the proposal to ban idling vehicles with running engines.

Implementation details of the control scheme on idling vehicles in Singapore

2. According to the information obtained from the Pollution Control Department of Singapore, the legislation controlling idling vehicles entered into force in 1999. The officers of the Pollution Control Department enforce the regulation during their regular patrol and in response to complaints. If non-compliance is found, the enforcement officer will issue a warning letter to the driver on site and advise him to switch off his idling engine. No one has been prosecuted for violating the regulation up to early December 2007.

3. There was no promotional or educational programme launched before the implementation of the ban. The Singapore Government has been taking an educational approach, coupled with the issue of advisories and warning letters, to encourage drivers to switch off the engines of their vehicles while waiting. The Singapore Government also works with large fleet owners, such as tourist bus associations and taxi operators, to bring across the message of switching off engines to their drivers.

Information on emissions from engines which were idling and engines which were restarted after being switched off

4. The emissions generated from an idling engine and from restarting an engine vary not only with the engine type and engine capacity,

but also with the manner of restarting the engine.

5. Notwithstanding the above, according to the Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) of Natural Resources Canada, in general if one is going to stop his vehicle for more than ten seconds, he will save fuel and money by turning off the vehicle and then restarting it when ready to drive again. Relevant web-links of OEE is as follows -

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/personal/idling.cfm>

6. This ten-second rule is widely quoted and applied by a number of sources, such as the American Lung Association of Massachusetts, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, the University of Maine, the California Energy Commission, and the Department of Environmental Protection of the State of Maine, US.

7. In addition, catalytic converters stay warm for up to 25 minutes after the engine is turned off. Therefore, restarting an engine after shutting it down for a few minutes will not produce the large amount of harmful emissions arising from cold starts.

Environmental Protection Department
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