

EPA ISSUES FINAL RICE STANDARDS TO REDUCE TOXIC EMISSIONS

On February 17, 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule affecting industrial facilities that use diesel powered stationary reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE) to generate electricity. The intent of this rule is to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from existing units in an effort to improve air quality and reduce pollutants known or suspected to cause adverse health effects.

Engines meeting specific siting, age, and size criteria will be required to control formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein, methanol emissions during all phases of operation including periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction.

Operators may be required to install controls and use ultra-low sulfur fuel to achieve these new levels. Performance testing shall be used to demonstrate compliance with the standards.

The EPA is expected to issue final emissions standards for existing spark- ignition engines by August 10, 2010.