

« EURO 6 » Vehicles in ATEX Zones

Background

Since 2015, manufacturers of heavy goods vehicles must apply the "EURO 6" standard. The equipment set up to meet the standard, has systems for regenerating the particulate filter on the exhausts. Those systems operate automatically or in forced mode.

They can generate high temperatures (of the order of 500°C in the active regeneration phase at the post combustion line).

In general, vehicles built around 2016 or earlier, are equipped with a regeneration switch. With the latter, a driver can start the process (once indicated by the vehicle electronic system) or stop an active regeneration if the vehicle is to enter an area where the regeneration is not allowed or undesirable.

Vehicles built around 2017 and later, are normally no longer equipped with such switches. The regeneration is only possible while driving above a certain speed. This speed can be specific to the truck manufacturer. A forced regeneration at standstill can only be initiated at a truck manufacturer's workshop.

Field of Application

This technical Bulletin is addressed to "EURO 6" vehicles, operated by gas companies and/or their contractors, which enter ATEX zones.

Recommendations

Due to the high temperatures reached, regeneration of the diesel particulate filter is not authorized in any ATEX zone which can be located in depots, filling sites or customers' sites.

To fulfil this provision and in order to be accepted on those sites, all "EURO 6" vehicles must meet at least one of the following three characteristics:

- The vehicle is equipped with a switch in the cabin. One of its positions stops and prevents the engagement of the particulate filter regeneration.
- The regeneration cannot be automatically initiated below a speed of 30 km/h. In this case, a certificate from the manufacturer on board the vehicle confirms this technical provision.
- The vehicle is a EURO 6 type, without particulate filter regeneration or with a regeneration at low temperature, certified by the manufacturer or carrier.

In addition, drivers shall be trained in this regard and follow the manufacturers' and gas companies' instructions.

Moreover, before entering a site with an ATEX zone, drivers shall:

- If their vehicle is equipped with the switch, flip it to the OFF position to stop and prevent any regeneration,
- If not equipped with the switch, stop the engine (with the ignition off) in order to stop any regeneration in progress, restart the engine and drive without exceeding 30 km/h while on site.

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