



## *The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich*

### **Vehicle / Equipment Idle Control Policy**

#### **Purpose**

Central Saanich is committed to the reduction of unnecessary vehicle / equipment idling as a means of reducing air pollution and fuel expense. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the idling of municipal vehicles and equipment. Limiting idle times reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to healthy work environments and the efficient use of Municipal resources.

#### **Scope**

This policy applies to all staff operating vehicles and equipment owned or leased by the District of Central Saanich.

#### **Definitions**

**Idling** - Idling is the operation of a vehicle or equipment while they are not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the operation or safety of the vehicle, equipment, staff, or the public.

**Fuels** - This policy includes all vehicles and equipment that run on fossil fuels which includes gasoline, diesel, bio-diesel, propane, hydrogen and natural gas.

**Vehicles and Equipment** - Vehicles and equipment refers to cars, light trucks, vans, heavy trucks, snow equipment, loaders, backhoes, street sweepers and any other vehicles or equipment operated by staff utilizing fossil fuels.

#### **Procedures**

**Manufacturer's Guidelines (Recommendations)** - Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines for idling unless otherwise advised by the Municipal Garage staff.

**Initial Warm-up for Vehicles and Equipment** – Idle times up to five minutes are allowed for vehicles during their initial warm up and at subsequent times when the vehicle is being restarted after a prolonged period of shutdown that results in vehicle conditions similar to those prior to initial warm up.

**Operation of Vehicles and Equipment in the Field** - No operator shall idle the engine of a vehicle or equipment in excess of three minutes, if the vehicle or equipment is stopped for a foreseeable

period of time. Diesel fueled vehicles/equipment should only be turned off after enough time has passed to allow the proper circulation and the cooling of engine oil, coolant and turbo chargers, not to exceed three minutes.

**Exceptions** – This policy does not apply to the following vehicles, equipment or situations. Operators must use their own discretion in certain situations.

1. Emergency vehicles and equipment are exempted while engaged in operational activities such as fire/rescue or police services.
2. Vehicles or equipment assisting in emergency activities.
3. Where engine power is necessary for an associated power need such as, but not limited to, electrical power, compressed air, and various power take – off devices such as auxiliary hydraulics.
4. Vehicles and equipment may idle for the purpose of defogging, defrosting or deicing windows. Idling must end when the fog, frost or icy conditions have been eliminated. When window ice or frost conditions are present, attempts to remove snow, ice or frost from the windows with a scraper must be attempted before idling.
5. Vehicles and equipment used solely to power emergency lighting and two way radios can operate and idling can take place at intervals to charge the batteries.
6. Staff may idle vehicles/equipment for the purpose of getting warm, dry or cool for the well being of the operator and passengers, if indoor accommodations are not available at the job site.
7. This policy does not apply to vehicles being serviced or inspected.
8. When safety may be compromised by shutting down the engine, vehicles/equipment may idle at the discretion of the operator.

Ratified by Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007.