

LEGAL CORNER

NEW TRUCK EFFICIENCY REGULATIONS

AND THE IMPACT ON TRUCKING COMPANIES

By Scott Young

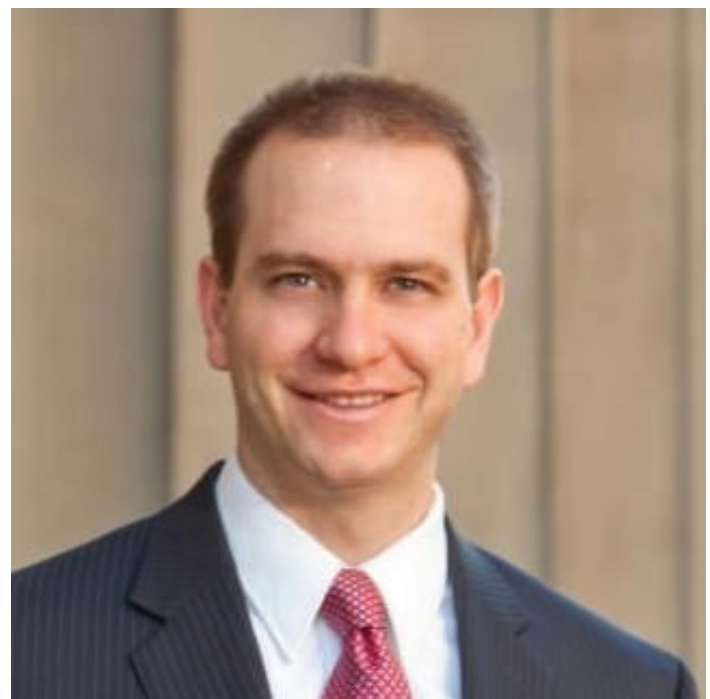
On February 18, 2014, President Barack Obama announced the order he placed on the Environmental Protection Agency and the Transportation Department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop new fuel efficiency and emissions standards by March 31, 2016. This represents the second phase of President Obama's push for higher fuel efficiency for heavy duty vehicles such as semi trucks. In 2011, President Obama issued a similar directive aimed at new models of heavy duty vehicles from 2014 to 2018. That directive required manufacturers of heavy duty vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and delivery trucks, garbage trucks, and buses to achieve a 10% reduction.

The Obama administration has touted these new regulations as a way of reducing dependence on foreign oil by reducing demand, cutting pollution, improving the public's health, and supporting manufacturing innovation. In 2010, the Supertruck Program was launched to achieve these goals. In this program, the Department of Energy teamed with Cummins, Volvo, Navistar and Daimler to increase engine and fuel efficiency. In its press release associated with the new 2016 deadline, the administration noted that "Since 2010, Supertruck partners Cummins and PACCAR's Peterbilt Motors Company have demonstrated a 20 percent increase in engine efficiency and a 70 percent increase in freight efficiency, reaching over 10 miles per gallon under real world driving conditions on a Class 8 tractor-trailer."

Stakeholders including the EPA, the Transportation Department, trucking companies, engine manufacturers, and environmental groups will be involved in negotiating this next round of fuel efficiency and emissions standards. The Trucking companies should stay informed on the progress of these regulations and voice their concerns to industry groups

involved in drafting the regulations. This will ensure that industry expertise and business concerns are addressed in the drafting process. This action is critical because the regulations will have a significant impact on the trucking industry.

“ President Obama’s push for higher fuel efficiency for heavy duty vehicles such as semi trucks. ”



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