

Engine Idling Policy



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Engine Idling Policy Statement

Paramount Platforms is steadfast in its commitment to reducing the environmental impact of its operations, ensuring compliance with all relevant UK laws and regulations, and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. Recognising the multifaceted challenges posed by engine idling, we have made it a cornerstone of our environmental policy to address and mitigate its effects comprehensively. Engine idling contributes significantly to environmental pollution, fuel wastage, and operational inefficiency, all of which are concerns that Paramount Platforms takes seriously. By prioritising the minimisation of unnecessary idling across our diverse fleet of vehicles and machinery, we aim to align operational practices with our overarching goal of sustainability. This policy encapsulates our pledge to reduce idling, thereby mitigating harmful emissions, conserving valuable fuel resources, and contributing significantly to improved air quality for the communities in which we operate.

Furthermore, this policy represents a collective commitment from all employees, contractors, and visitors who operate company vehicles or equipment. Through this shared framework of environmental stewardship, Paramount Platforms sets a benchmark for responsible business practices and strives to foster a culture where sustainability is a shared responsibility. By diligently adhering to this policy, we aim not only to achieve but to exceed our ambitious annual emissions reduction target of 5%, all while maintaining the highest standards of operational efficiency. This approach reinforces our dedication to safeguarding the environment and serving the communities where we operate.

The reduction of engine idling is not merely a component but a cornerstone of our environmental and operational strategy, reflecting our unwavering commitment to sustainability and innovation. This policy delineates a comprehensive framework for addressing idling practices, recognising that every stakeholder—whether senior management, transport personnel, or vehicle operators—plays a vital role in minimising emissions. Paramount Platforms understands that the effective implementation of this policy requires clear communication, systematic monitoring, and targeted training to ensure that all team members understand their role in achieving these objectives. Designed to harmonise with current environmental legislation, industry standards, and sustainability commitments, this policy underscores our dedication to continuous improvement and adaptability.

Through the integration of advanced technological solutions, enhanced training initiatives, and regular policy reviews, we are committed to ensuring that our practices evolve in line with the latest advancements in environmental management. The implementation of this policy not only reflects Paramount Platforms proactive stance in adopting sustainable practices but also demonstrates our leadership in setting industry standards. As a responsible industry leader in fleet and equipment management, we remain committed to fostering a culture of environmental accountability and leading the way in sustainable business practices.

Responsibilities

Senior management is ultimately responsible for implementing and overseeing this policy, playing a pivotal role in integrating environmental and operational priorities within the company. Their duties encompass developing and endorsing this policy, ensuring it is comprehensive, up-to-date, and tailored to address specific challenges faced by Paramount Platforms. By providing vital resources such as training initiatives, telematics systems, and operational guidelines, senior management lays the groundwork for effectively monitoring and reducing engine idling. Furthermore, they ensure that the company remains compliant with all relevant UK laws, including ULEZ and CAZ frameworks, while consistently upholding the stringent standards required to maintain FORS Gold accreditation.

Senior Management

Senior management also sets ambitious but achievable emissions reduction targets, such as the company's commitment to a 5% annual reduction in emissions and leads by example in fostering a culture of accountability and environmental awareness across all levels of the organisation. They actively participate in strategic discussions about emissions reduction and integrate the latest technological solutions to enhance the company's operational efficiency. Senior management's role extends to coordinating with external regulatory bodies, industry stakeholders, and internal teams to ensure a holistic approach to policy implementation.

Regular biannual reviews of the policy's implementation and progress further demonstrate their dedication to ensuring that the organisation's environmental goals are met and exceeded, adapting the policy as necessary to reflect evolving industry standards and best practices.

Key responsibilities of senior management include:

- Providing the necessary resources for training and operational improvements.
- Setting clear and measurable emissions reduction targets.
- Ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and industry standards.
- Leading strategic discussions to foster innovation and sustainability.
- Conducting biannual reviews to evaluate policy effectiveness and adapt to changes.

Management

The transport department plays an equally critical role in the success of this policy. This department is tasked with the ongoing monitoring of vehicle idling through advanced telematics systems, which provide invaluable data for analysing trends and identifying areas for improvement. Differentiating between operational idling, such as PTO use, and unnecessary idling remains a priority for refining data accuracy and tailoring solutions. The Transport Department is also responsible for ensuring that drivers are consistently educated on best practices.

This is achieved through regular training programmes, including the mandatory LoCity eLearning modules delivered during induction and classroom-based modules on a five-yearly basis, as well as monthly toolbox talks that reinforce key principles and address emerging challenges. Furthermore, the department undertakes the responsibility of evaluating the impact of idling reduction initiatives, using detailed analytics to measure progress and identify emerging opportunities for improvement.

Additionally, the department plays a key role in maintaining compliance with ULEZ and CAZ frameworks and takes the lead in conducting thorough biannual policy reviews, during which they propose updates and improvements to address evolving requirements. This includes the adoption of new technologies or methodologies that can further reduce emissions and improve efficiency.

Aiding employees by providing clear and accessible guidance on policy adherence is another essential aspect of their function, ensuring that all staff feel supported in meeting the organisation's environmental objectives.

Through consistent engagement with drivers, the department fosters a culture of accountability and continuous improvement, reinforcing the importance of idling reduction within the company's broader sustainability agenda.

Key responsibilities include:

- Delivering mandatory LoCity modules during induction and on a biennial basis.
- Conducting monthly toolbox talks that reinforce key principles and address emerging challenges.
- Evaluating the impact of idling reduction initiatives through detailed analytics to measure progress.
- Maintaining compliance with ULEZ and CAZ frameworks, alongside proposing updates and improvements during biannual reviews.

Drivers

Drivers, as the frontline operators of company vehicles, have specific and detailed responsibilities under this policy. These include conducting thorough daily walkaround checks without prolonged engine idling, ensuring that idling is avoided when parked unless it is necessary for PTO operations or dictated by extreme weather conditions. Drivers must raise concerns about equipment or practices that may contribute to excessive idling and actively participate in discussions aimed at finding solutions to reduce emissions.

These duties are integral not only to the reduction of unnecessary emissions but also to fostering a broader culture of environmental responsibility within the organisation. In addition to these responsibilities, drivers are also tasked with staying abreast of updates to relevant regulations and technological tools that can assist in monitoring and reducing idling. Through their diligent efforts and active participation, drivers contribute significantly to the organisation's ability to meet its emissions reduction targets and uphold its commitment to environmental stewardship.

Participation in mandatory training sessions, including LoCity e-learning modules and toolbox talks, is crucial to staying informed about best practices, legal requirements, and the environmental impact of idling. Employees are also encouraged to utilise tools such as the Drivers Handbook app to access up-to-date guidelines and ensure compliance with operational standards. By actively engaging with these resources and adhering to established protocols, employees play an indispensable role in achieving the organisation's idling reduction targets. Additionally, employees are encouraged to share feedback and suggestions on how operational procedures can be refined to further reduce unnecessary idling.

By fostering a sense of ownership and involvement in environmental initiatives, the company ensures that employees are not only compliant but also proactive in driving positive change.

Driver-specific actions include:

- Performing daily walkaround checks to identify potential issues.
- Reporting unnecessary idling or inefficiencies to the Transport Department.
- Participating in regular training and policy discussions to remain informed.
- Collaborating with management and colleagues to find innovative solutions for emissions reduction.

Risks Associated with Engine Idling

Engine idling poses significant risks to both the environment and public health. Prolonged idling releases harmful pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and carbon dioxide (CO₂), contributing to poor air quality and respiratory issues. Noise pollution is also something that may be caused through the idling of the engine. This pollution can cause annoyance to nearby neighbours and potential health issues for those who have prolonged exposure to the sound. This practice also wastes fuel, increasing operational costs and the organisation's carbon footprint. Additionally, prolonged idling causes engine deposits to build up, reducing efficiency, increasing maintenance costs, and leading to premature wear and tear. Non-compliance with idling regulations may result in fines, operational disruptions, and reputational damage.

The key pollutants from idling include:

- **Carbon dioxide (CO₂):** A significant contributor to climate change.
- **Nitrogen oxides (NOx):** Associated with respiratory diseases and environmental degradation.
- **Particulate matter (PM):** Linked to cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.

Mitigation Measures

To address the risks associated with engine idling, Paramount Platforms will implement the following measures:

Operational Practices

Optimising PTO use is fundamental to achieving a reduction in vehicle emissions and enhancing operational efficiency. PTO systems are integral for loading and unloading machinery, operating via hydraulic ramps and winches installed on the vehicles. Drivers are explicitly instructed to activate PTO systems solely when required, ensuring they disengage them immediately after completing the task. The duration of idling for PTO purposes must not exceed the time necessary to power the winch or raise and lower ramps. Emphasising this practice helps limit fuel wastage and reduces overall environmental impact.

Pre-operation planning represents another pivotal aspect of the operational procedure. Drivers are encouraged to perform as many walkaround checks as possible before activating the vehicle's engine. These checks include examining oil levels when the engine is cool, inspecting tyre conditions, and assessing the general state of the vehicle. By completing these essential evaluations prior to starting the vehicle, unnecessary idling can be effectively minimised. Only after these initial checks are concluded should the engine be powered on to facilitate subsequent evaluations that necessitate the engine's operation.

Route optimisation constitutes a critical component of efficient and sustainable transport operations. Although Google Maps offers general routing information, it does not consider specific challenges such as low bridges, weight-restricted roads, or other potential obstacles for HGVs. Consequently, drivers must utilise sat-nav systems specifically designed for HGV routing to ensure accuracy and compliance with restrictions. In addition, drivers are expected to exercise critical thinking and adaptability when encountering unforeseen disruptions, such as traffic jams or detours. Effective communication is indispensable in this context, and drivers are encouraged to report traffic updates or road obstructions to the office and fellow drivers via phone. This proactive exchange of information fosters a collaborative and responsive approach to route planning, ensuring efficiency and safety at all times.

Training and Education

All drivers must participate in mandatory LoCity training during their induction and on a biennial basis. These sessions provide comprehensive guidance on reducing engine idling and improving fuel efficiency. Monthly toolbox talks supplement this training, focusing on specific challenges and reinforcing best practices.

To further enhance training outcomes, the policy outlines a structured process for conducting toolbox talks. These discussions will include:

1. Preparing relevant materials on idling reduction and fuel efficiency.
2. Presenting key points during team meetings, using real-life examples where applicable.
3. Encouraging drivers to share feedback and experiences to foster engagement.
4. Following up with handouts or digital resources to reinforce the session's content.

By embedding these steps into regular operations, Paramount Platforms ensures that drivers are well-equipped to contribute to the company's environmental goals.

Technological Solutions

Telematics systems currently provide near real-time idling data through features such as colour-coded vehicle icons on map views and downloadable reports. While there are no immediate plans to integrate CANBUS functionality to distinguish PTO idling from unnecessary idling, the existing system remains a valuable tool for monitoring and addressing idling behaviours. Regular analysis of telematics data will allow the company to identify persistent idlers and implement targeted interventions.

Equipment Upgrades

Transitioning to hybrid or fully electric access platforms where feasible will reduce reliance on diesel engines. Replacing older, high-emission vehicles with newer models meeting ULEZ standards will also contribute to emission reductions. Investing in auxiliary power units (APUs) for climate control during idling periods will further minimise engine operation.

Compliance with Regulations

Adherence to UK laws regarding engine idling, including ULEZ and CAZ frameworks, is mandatory. Maintaining FORS Gold accreditation by meeting and exceeding idling reduction standards is a priority. Internal policies will be regularly updated to reflect changes in legislation and industry best practices, ensuring alignment with legal requirements.

Employee Engagement

Fostering a culture of environmental responsibility by rewarding employees who minimise idling demonstrates the organisation's commitment to sustainability. Encouraging open communication about challenges and solutions related to idling reduction ensures employees feel supported and engaged in achieving policy objectives.

Review Section

Regular review of this policy is critical to ensuring its relevance and effectiveness. The policy will be reviewed every six months by the transport department, with additional reviews conducted in response to significant operational changes, technological advancements, or regulatory updates.

The review process involves analysing telematics data to evaluate idling trends, gathering feedback from stakeholders on policy implementation, and assessing compliance with ULEZ, CAZ, and FORS standards. Benchmarking performance against the annual emissions reduction target of 5% will help evaluate progress and set future goals.

All findings and proposed changes will be documented in a formal review report, which will be approved by a director before implementation. Lessons learned from each review cycle will be integrated into the policy to enhance its effectiveness. Staying informed about advancements in technology, regulations, and industry practices will ensure the organisation remains at the forefront of idling reduction efforts.

Conclusion

By adhering to this policy, Paramount Platforms demonstrates its commitment to environmental sustainability, legal compliance, and operational efficiency. Through collaborative efforts across all levels of the organisation, we will minimise idling, reduce emissions, and set an industry example for responsible fleet management. This policy serves as a cornerstone of our environmental strategy, reflecting our dedication to creating a healthier, cleaner, and more sustainable future for our employees, customers, and the broader community.



Stephen Mann
Director

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