

California Air Resources Board (CARB) Zero-emission Forklifts (ZEF) Regulation

Summary & Screening Tool

Key Elements of Regulation

- In-field* Forklifts are exempt from the Phase-out Provisions of the Regulation
 - Recordkeeping of In-field Forklifts required to be maintained on-site
 - Must be labeled with assigned Equipment Identification Number (EIN)
- Cannot purchase large spark ignition (LSI) forklifts starting January 1, 2026
 - Except in limited circumstances such as:
 - *Forklifts to be exclusively operated as In-field Forklifts*
 - *New 2025 LSI forklifts can be acquired January 1 and December 31, 2026*
- Small Fleets = 25 or less forklifts / Large Fleets = 26 or more forklifts
- Phase-out for Large Fleets begins 2028 when 10-year-old units start to be phased out until all units are ZEFs by 2035
- Phase-out for Small and Crop Preparation Services Fleets begins 2029 when 13-year-old units start to be phased out until all units are ZEFs by 2038
 - No more than 25% need to be replaced at end of first compliance period (2029)
 - Information on fleets submitted to CARB by September 30, 2026 and annual reports submitted by September 30 of each following year (ending in 2038)
- Low-use Exemption (200 hr/yr) for use of pre-2026 LSI model-year units
 - Unlimited number of units but exemption sunsets in 2031 except that a microbusiness can use one low-use LSI forklift indefinitely
 - *Microbusiness = Annual gross receipts up to \$5 million*
- Certain extension provisions available in cases of ZEF delivery delays, charging infrastructure construction delays, site electrification delays or in cases where no ZEFs are yet available for certain applications
- Fleet operators must contact their utility providers by March 31, 2026 to discuss any necessary upgrades to enable on-site charging
 - Consider this to be a critical step to be eligible for any infrastructure delay extensions noted above, if ultimately needed

* In-Field Forklift = Used 50% or more of time in Agricultural and/or Forest Operations

More Detailed Information at this California Air Resources Board weblink:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/zero-emission-forklifts>