



Amazon is using electric delivery vehicles from Rivian in New York. *Lindsey Nicholson / Getty Images*

NEW YORK SHOULD KEEP ON TRUCKING WITH ITS ADVANCED CLEAN TRUCKS RULE

In 2021, New York state leaders adopted the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) standard to slash deadly diesel pollution. This clean trucks policy sets gradual and reasonable sales targets for electric medium and heavy-duty trucks, with a flexible approach to ensure truckmakers can meet their targets.

Transportation accounts for significant health-harming air pollution in the state, and due to the relentless expansion of e-commerce warehouses spurring hundreds of thousands of trucks around the state, New Yorkers are suffering more than ever. While trucks make up just a fraction of vehicles on New York’s roads they are the worst polluters, pumping out deadly diesel pollution in neighborhoods. Diesel truck pollution is dangerous – sickening and even killing New Yorkers, especially those living along highways or near large warehouses.

New York’s Trucks Rule is Flexible

The ACT standard is designed to help truck manufacturers easily comply. Under the standard, manufacturers accrue deficits based on their combustion truck sales in New York. Their deficits must then be offset with credits generated by the sale of zero-emission vehicles. Manufacturers can store, trade, or sell these credits to ensure compliance, and these credits can be earned even before the ACT goes into effect. (Using this credit system, companies in California have been able to easily comply with the rule, and the state is already years ahead of its goals.)

The Standard is about Truckmakers, Not Dealerships

New York’s Advanced Clean Trucks rule requires compliance from truckmakers — and

¹<https://www.nrdc.org/bio/guillermo-ortiz/truck-makers-are-manufacturing-false-crisis>

not dealerships. Manufacturers have been unfairly strong-arming truck dealerships. These manipulative business practices are being investigated by the California Air Resources Board.

New York’s Trucks Rule is Gradual

The Advanced Clean Trucks standard has reasonable compliance requirements that unfold gradually over the coming years. Delaying this rule would only make it harder for manufacturers to comply in the future. If New York delays the regulation until 2027, manufacturers would still have to start with the established sales percentages for model year 2027 (15-20%), rather than a gradual ramp-up beginning in 2025. It’s important to note that the standard does not require 100% electric truck sales in any class of vehicle at any point in time.

New York is Starting with the Easy Stuff: Electric Vans and Box Trucks

The regulation begins with a slow ramp-up of class 2B-3 trucks like cargo vans, flatbed trucks, and small box trucks, requiring that 7% of this class is electric by 2025, scaling up to 15% by 2027. Because these trucks have shorter routes, they can charge at home depots and don’t require public chargers.

Because trucks are the dirtiest vehicles on New York’s roads, delaying the rule by even a few years will have dire effects for New Yorkers’ health.

Electric delivery vans are already hard at work in New York: Amazon has been deploying electric delivery vans from Rivian in Syracuse and Rochester since 2021. Fedex is using electric delivery vans from BrightDrop (a subsidiary of General Motors) in New York City. The New York Power Authority is using electric cargo vans from Mullen Automotive at its upstate facility.



Illustration of albuterol inhalers on trucks
(Hannah Rothstein for Earthjustice)

Truckmakers are also easily complying with these requirements in California. In fact, the state met these goals two years ahead of schedule. Back in 2022, 7.5% of all new trucks sold in California were already zero-emissions vehicles. In the big picture, businesses are already on the path to electrify class 2B-3 trucks in the United States. Amazon has over 20,000 electric delivery vans on the road, with the goal of deploying 100,000 by 2030.

New York’s Trucks Rule will Cut Air Pollution and Save Lives

Because trucks are the dirtiest vehicles on New York’s roads, delaying the rule by even a few years will have dire effects for New Yorkers’ health. More diesel pollution in New York will mean more asthma attacks, visits to the ER, heart problems, and even early death. New Yorkers are guaranteed a right to clean air in the State Constitution.

Plus, the rule is crucial for making emission reductions that New York’s legislature mandated in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Delaying the Advanced Clean Trucks rule would undermine these historic commitments to protect New York’s health and future.