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Air board OKs six measures to cut emissions

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The state Air Resources Board approved six measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including a proposal aimed at making big rigs more fuel-efficient. The board's vote puts the proposals, along with three others approved in June, on track to become law by Jan. 1, 2010, though all are still subject to revision.

They are scheduled to be the first regulations adopted under Assembly Bill 32, which requires the state to cut climate-warming emissions 25 percent by 2020.

Representatives from the trucking industry voiced strong reservations about the proposed big-rig rule, which would mandate a package of modifications recommended under a voluntary truck-efficiency program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As written, the regulation would require all of the more than 1 million tractor-trailers that travel California roads each year to be fitted with aerodynamic skirts and tails. In addition, dual wheels and tires on 18-wheelers would be replaced with extra-wide "super-singles," which have lower rolling resistance.

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