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RESEARCH ARTICLE

EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES – A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Releasing and measurement of green house gases were from vehicles and engines operating on a range of different fuels like diesel, biodiesel, compressed natural gas (CNG). Emission rates of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O are reported.

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INTRODUCTION

Releasing of green house gases such as CH₄, CO₂, N₂O, NF₃, CFC etc were monitored and measured [1]. Formation of Nitrous oxide from light-duty gasoline vehicle were takes place [2][3][4][5][6] over the three-way catalyst at lower exhaust temperatures[7][8]. Literature study shows that emissions of nitrous oxide from diesel vehicles depend on the basis of fuel consumption (FC) [9]. One other study [10] reports N₂O factors for heavy-duty diesel vehicles of Euro 1, 2, and 3 emission standards as well as vehicles equipped with selective catalytic NO_x reduction. Concentrations of CO₂, CO, and THC in the dilute exhaust were determined using the technique non dispersive infrared(NDIR) analyzers. Fuel consumption was calculated on the basis of carbon balance procedures. NO_x emissions (both NO and NO₂) and particulate matter emissions were also measured for each study. Separate samples of dilute exhaust and dilution air for determination of CH₄ and N₂O were collected over each test.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGY

Emission and measurement of N₂O is made from exhaustsamples using either FTIR or chromatographic analysis / technique with in 24 hrs of collection [10][11]. Using gas chromatograph with FID, methane concentration was determined and its detection limit is 10 mgL⁻¹. Emission of Nitrous oxide from engine was determined using a gas chromatograph with an electron

capture detector. The sample is passed through Ascarite™ and sodium sulphate traps to reduce the levels of CO₂ and water vapor if present , respectively, as both gases interfere with the detection of N₂O by electron capture. The limit of detection for N₂O analysis using this instrument is 10 ppb in the dilute exhaust.

RESULTS

The IPCC Third Assessment Report [12] suggests revised GWPs of 23 for CH₄ and 296 for N₂O, but IPCC mandated inventory development practices have not been updated to reflect these new GWPs as of December 2010. The distance based on mass emission rates of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O along with fuel consumption are for clean diesel and CNG are 1612 gm/km, 1040 gm/km; 1.53 gm/km, 8.21 gm/km; 0.15 gm/km, 0.07 gm/km; 76.2 gm/km, 66.4 gm/km (Diesel fuel); 83.4 gm/km, 10.4 gm/km (gaseous fuel) respectively . The number of individual vehicles (n) and the number of repeat tests per vehicle (r) that contribute to the reported average emission rates and fuel consumption are for clean diesel n=4 r= 4 ; For CNG n= 3, r=2. Oxidation catalysts have no measurable effect on methane emissions but increases nitrous oxide emissions by approximately 50-60 % compared to no after treatment. The catalyzed diesel particle filter has no measurable effect on methane emissions but increases nitrous oxide.

Conclusions

The active regeneration event resulted in a 20% increase in CO₂ emissions, a 36–72% increase in N₂O emissions, and no change in CH₄ emissions. Results from

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a single vehicle equipped with an oxidation catalyst suggest that cold temperature operation (10°C vs. 20°C) shows an average CO₂ emissions increase of 5%, a CH₄ emissions decrease of 40%, and an N₂O emissions increase of 40%. Results from this same vehicle operating over different driving cycles also suggest that CH₄ and N₂O emissions increase for driving cycles that produce lower exhaust temperatures.

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