

Q: What is an Idle Shutdown Timer?

A: The Idle Shutdown Timer (IST) is a vehicle parameter set by a service technician, to prevent trucks from idling for extensive periods of time. Generally speaking, the IST is set most frequently at 5 minutes, but ranges from 5 to 15 minutes in most cases.

When the truck recognizes that it is in an idle state, the IST begins. Depending on the vehicle, a dash light may be triggered in the last 30 seconds to 1 minute of the default IST setting to alert the driver the vehicle is about to shut off. Some vehicles will have an audible alert as well. If the driver is in the vehicle and sees these alerts, the driver can reset the IST by letting off and reapplying the brakes or by hitting the accelerator. If no action has been taken, the truck shuts itself off once the time limit is met.