



## For more information:

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality  
Management District (916) 874-4800  
(800) 880-9025

AQMD Compliance Assistance Hotline (916) 874-4884

Business Environmental Resource Center (916) 874-2100

**This brochure is an introduction to the Stationary Source permit system. Rule changes can affect your business. Contact the AQMD to receive updated rules and regulations.**



# Permits

**For Stationary Air Pollution Sources —  
Who Needs Them and Why?**

### Permit Fees

- Every applicant for an Authority to Construct shall pay at least one half the estimated initial permit fee upon filing of the application, and the remainder before issuance of the Permit to Operate.
- A permit fee will be assessed for each new or modified source based on the type and size of the source.
- A fee is required for the annual renewal of a Permit to Operate. The permit renewal fee is based on the type and size of the equipment and the calculated fee for the total tons of each pollutant emitted during the previous calendar year.
- If your equipment emits a substance known to be a toxic air contaminant you could be subject to an air toxics fee. Specific fee information is listed in the AQMD's Rules 301 and 306.
- A Permit to Operate will be voided if the annual renewal fee is not paid within 60 days of the date the bill is sent. Operating without a permit may result in a fine of up to \$1,000 per day and/or up to six months in jail for each day of operation.

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN




777 – 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814-1908

(916) 874-4800

(800) 880-9025

[www.AirQuality.org](http://www.AirQuality.org)

 @AQMD

# About the AQMD

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD) works with local, state, and federal government agencies, the business community, and the public to achieve and maintain healthy air quality for Sacramento County. The AQMD is responsible for regulating stationary, non-vehicular sources of air pollution in Sacramento County and staff works to ensure that the county's air quality meets state and federal health standards.

Its jurisdiction includes all unincorporated areas of Sacramento County, as well as the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento.

## Air Quality Permits: Doing Business in Sacramento County

Sacramento County's air does not meet health-based standards for ground-level ozone, particulate matter of 10 microns or less (PM10) or particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less (PM2.5). These pollutants are often a by-product of materials and/or processes used by businesses. Stationary source permits issued by the AQMD are designed to ensure that sources are compliant with local, state, and federal rules and regulations, reduce air pollution and help the county meet air quality health standards.

The Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate are separate documents granting you permission to build and then to operate equipment that will meet air quality standards. Like city and county building permits, the Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate are part of doing business in Sacramento County.

## Permit Requirements for Business Operations or Equipment

The AQMD rules and regulations cover large and small businesses whose operations emit air pollutants. Operations or equipment usually requiring a permit include, but are not limited to:

- Solvent cleaning (degreasers)
- Coating of metal parts and products
- Coating of plastic parts and products
- Manufacturing and/or coating of wood furniture and cabinets
- Polyester resin operations
- Chemical manufacturing operations
- Dry materials handling (concrete & aggregate plants) that generates PM10

- Auto body refinishing
- Graphic arts operations (print shops)
- Gasoline stations or any gas dispensing facility
- Storage of organic liquids
- Combustion equipment such as boilers, heaters and internal combustion engines
- Dry cleaning
- Equipment that handles hazardous air pollutants, such as asbestos, beryllium, benzene, hexavalent chromium, mercury or vinyl chloride
- Solid waste disposal sites
- Contaminated soil/water remediation projects
- Plating operations
- Air pollution control equipment such as scrubbers, cyclones, fabric filters, catalytic oxidizers and thermal oxidizers
- Any painting or coating operation using more than one (1) gallon per day of combined volume of paints, adhesives, inks, solvents or other solvent containing material
- Any process that emits two (2) pounds per day or more of any pollutant (without the benefit of air pollution control devices in any 24-hour period)

## Stationary Source Permits

Stationary Source permits are required by law and are needed:

- Before installing new equipment or processes that may release or control air pollutants
- Before modifying existing permitted equipment that may release or control air pollutants
- When a permitted facility changes ownership
- When permitted equipment is relocated to a new address
- When a change in the methods and/or process rate of operation occurs at a permitted facility
- When a permitted facility wishes to modify a permit condition, including changing its permitted emissions
- When new regulations are promulgated

To save time and money, contact the AQMD before purchasing new equipment.

## Permit Application

Call the AQMD at (916) 874-4800 and ask for a Stationary Source Permit Application package, which includes an application form and instructions. You can also get the application forms by visiting [www.AirQuality.org](http://www.AirQuality.org).

To apply, provide the AQMD with these five (5) things:

- Completed permit application form
- Detailed description of your equipment
- Detailed information on materials processed
- Detailed information on quantity of air emissions
- Appropriate permit fee

Submit all of the above to the AQMD, 777 12th Street, 3rd floor, Sacramento, CA 95814-1908.

An AQMD permit engineer will contact you regarding any additional information needed. Processing time varies from six weeks to six months, depending on the complexity of the application and volume of permits in process.

## Authority to Construct

You must file and obtain the Authority to Construct before construction begins to ensure that all of the AQMD rules and regulations are considered. This allows time for you to make any required design changes in the planning stage. Failure to apply before construction may result in possible civil or criminal penalties, as well as investment in design or purchase of equipment that may not be found acceptable.

An AQMD permit engineer evaluates your project before an Authority to Construct is issued. The evaluation is based on your application, proposed air pollutant emissions, plans you provide for all equipment, and background information on the proposed operation. It is up to you to demonstrate that your equipment can operate in compliance with all of the AQMD rules and regulations.

## Operating Equipment Without a Permit

If you operate equipment that emits or controls air pollutants without a Permit to Operate, you are subject to legal action. You must submit an application, and all information required for permit evaluation to obtain a Permit to Operate.

Your Permit to Operate must be renewed annually. As part of the annual renewal process, compliance with permit conditions and emission limitations can be reviewed as needed.