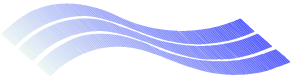


SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN



AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Compliance Assistance ADVISORY

SUBJECT: Changes to SMAQMD Rule 411, Boilers, Process Heaters, and Steam Generators

Advisory #06-01

February 2006

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF BOILERS, PROCESS HEATERS, AND STEAM GENERATORS

The purpose of this advisory is to alert owners and operators of boilers, process heaters, and steam generators with a rated heat input capacity of 1 million Btu per hour or greater of important changes to Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) Rule 411. Rule 411 applies to institutional, commercial, and industrial boilers, steam generators, and process heaters fired on gaseous, non-gaseous, or biomass fuels.

Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions from stationary sources like boilers are a precursor to both ozone and particulate matter. As a non-attainment area for ozone and particulate matter, the SMAQMD adopted changes to Rule 411 on October 27, 2005 to further reduce NO_x emissions in the Sacramento area.

Rule 411 now requires:

- Boilers to meet the lower NO_x limits unless an application for an Authority to Construct (A/C) is received by October 27, 2006 to take the low fuel usage exemption
- Existing boilers to comply with the Rule starting with October 27, 2007 and progressing to October 27, 2009, depending on the number of units at the source
- Existing unpermitted boilers applying for a permit after October 27, 2005 must comply with the lower NO_x limits by October 27, 2006 unless an application for the low fuel exemption is received by that date and the exemption is granted by the SMAQMD
- New boilers applying for a permit by October 27, 2006 may take the low fuel usage exemption, or comply with the new limits at the time of installation
- Initial emission testing using a portable analyzer or a source test for units rated between 1 mmBtu/hr and 5 mmBtu/hr with initial and then annual or biennial source testing for larger units.

Anyone operating equipment not in compliance with Rule 411 is subject to a Notice of Violation and penalties as specified in California Health and Safety Code Section 42402. If you are subject to the requirements of Rule 411, you are advised to read the full text of the rule found at the SMAQMD web site, www.airquality.org/.

Owners or operators of equipment regulated by Rule 411 should call the District and learn what options are available to them. For information regarding SMAQMD permits you may contact Brian Krebs at (916) 874-4856. You also may call the SMAQMD's *Compliance Assistance Hotline* at (916) 874-4884 for free, confidential assistance on any SMAQMD requirement.