



Compliance Assistance Advisory

Advisory # 2025-01

Subject: Information and Permitting Requirements for PCBTF-containing Products

Date: January 2025

Temporary Permitting Requirements for PCBTF-containing Products

This advisory is meant to inform any business that uses or may use coatings and other products containing a chemical known as PCBTF ([p-Chlorobenzotrifluoride](#), CAS #98-56-6), about the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (District) permitting requirements that may impact their business operations.

PCBTF is a compound found in many coatings and other products used at coating operations like autobody, wood coating, and printing shops. PCBTF was recently classified as a cancer-causing agent by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The District's permitting program estimates health risks from toxic compounds like PCBTF to make sure amounts used are within acceptable levels. The District has found the amount of PCBTF in most coating products is too high to be able to issue new or modified permits to coating operations under current risk thresholds.

Denying permits would be a significant impact to local coating operations and is an issue for businesses throughout California. The District is therefore actively working with the state and other local air agencies to find appropriate solutions. Solutions could include new regulations that phase out the use of PCBTF. The South Coast Air District has already drafted a phase-out rule that could be a model for other Air Districts like Sacramento. Manufacturers would be required to reformulate their products and businesses would not be allowed to use PCBTF-containing products once those types of rules go into effect.

In the meantime, the District has implemented a temporary policy to allow permits to be issued with special conditions:

- 1) The business must meet the temporary risk threshold (100 in a million cancer risk).
- 2) The business must sign a District affidavit attesting that no feasible PCBTF alternatives are available.
- 3) Businesses with permits granted under the temporary policy are advised to immediately begin using products that meet health risk and any new regulatory requirements in preparation of the eventual expiration of the policy.

All businesses that are or will be using PCBTF-containing products are encouraged to contact their coating suppliers to proactively advocate for reformulated products due to eventual phase-out of PCBTF products.

More Information

If you have questions about PCBTF or our permitting requirements, please visit our website at airquality.org or contact Brian Krebs, Program Manager, at (279) 207-1135 or bkrebs@airquality.org.

Sac Metro Air District advisories are available online at:

www.airquality.org/businesses/compliance-with-permits-rules/compliance-advisories.