



Compliance Assistance

ADVISORY

SUBJECT: PROHIBITION ON THE INSTALLATION OF FIREPLACES; STANDARDS FOR WOOD BURNING APPLIANCES

Advisory #11-02

October 2011

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE SALE AND INSTALLATION OF FIREPLACES AND WOOD STOVES

This advisory is meant to alert any person who is considering installing, selling, or seeking a building permit for wood burning appliances within the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). Emissions from wood burning appliances contain particulate matter which contributes to poor air quality. In an effort to ensure healthier air for Sacramento County residents and to reduce particulate matter emissions, the SMAQMD adopted Rule 417, *Wood Burning Appliances*.

Rule 417 prohibits the installation of any new, indoor or outdoor, permanently installed fireplaces after October 26, 2007 in any residential or commercial building. Consequently, traditional, open hearth fireplaces are no longer legal to sell or install in Sacramento County after October 26, 2007. The following are allowed:

- A U.S. EPA Phase II Certified wood burning heater
- A pellet-fueled wood burning heater,
- A masonry heater, or
- An appliance or fireplace determined to meet the U.S. EPA particulate matter emission standard and approved in writing by the Air Pollution Control Officer.

A list of U.S. Phase II EPA Certified wood burning heaters may be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/monitoring/caa/woodstoves/certifiedwood.pdf>

Please be advised that the U.S. EPA has a voluntary program that allows fireplace manufacturers the opportunity to receive an *EPA Qualified* label if their fireplaces have lower emissions than non-regulated fireplaces. The EPA voluntary program was developed to encourage the use of these fireplaces in regions with less serious air pollution problems than Sacramento County. These appliances are **not** allowed under SMAQMD Rule 417. You may find a fact sheet listing the differences between the two programs at: <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/choosing.html#woodstove>

Anyone who sells, offers for sale, supplies, or installs a wood burning appliance not meeting the requirements of Rule 417 is subject to a Notice of Violation and penalties as specified in California Health and Safety Code Section 42402. The full text of Rule 417 can be found at the SMAQMD web site, at: www.airquality.org.

For more information on Rule 417 or any other SMAQMD requirement you may call the Compliance Assistance Hotline at (916) 874-4884.