Recent Air Quality Rule Amendments


Rule 3.23 specifically addresses the sale, distribution, and installation of natural gas-fired water heaters, small boilers, and process heaters. The rule was adopted by the FRAQMD Board of Directors on October 3, 2016 and it aims at reducing the amount of ozone-forming NOx within the air district. Rule 3.23 is enforced at the point of sale and as of January 1, 2017 requires that all new units subject to the rule meet specific NOx emission standards. There is no requirement to retrofit or change-out existing units.

For additional information on this rule or to see if it applies to you, please contact the FRAQMD Engineering Department.

Agricultural Engine Registration

Dielectric Stationary Agricultural engines, such as pumps, are subject to the State’s ATCM for Compression Ignition Engines and must be registered with the District.

Existing Ag Engine Registration holders will receive a renewal notice in early March. The fees associated with the renewal process include the base renewal fee and any additional staff time spent on your registration in the past year. Once paid, the Registration is valid for one year. Review all engines in your fleet and register any newly purchased engines promptly.

Any engines brought out of storage must be registered. Please notify the District in writing if you sell or permanently retire any of your engines. If you have questions contact Tito Martinez at (530) 634-7659 ext 208 or tmartinez@fraqmd.org. Intermittent and Low-Use engines will also need to report their usage on the Throughput Reports mailed with the registrations.

Surface Prep & Clean-up Solvents Permit Limits

The 2019 FRAQMD permits will include limits on the amount of surface preparation and clean-up coatings a facility may use in a year. The permit limits will be based on reported 2017 usage and input from the facility. Please contact Alam Mangat for more information at (530) 634-7659 ext 212.

Most Throughput Reports Due Feb 28, 2018

Most FRAQMD stationary source permit holders are required to return 2017 Throughput Reports by February 28, 2018. The Throughput Reports were mailed with your 2018 Permit to Operate in December.

The Throughput Report contains your usage information for all permitted devices (gallons of fuel used, hours operated, etc.). The FRAQMD uses the data provided on the Throughput Report for a variety of purposes, including the calculation of emissions for statewide reporting.

Facilities that use and report coatings received their Supplemental Throughput Form late due to an error, so they are not due back to FRAQMD until March 30, 2018.

For more information or assistance with completing a Throughput Report, please contact Alam Mangat at amangat@fraqmd.org or (530) 634-7659 ext 212.

Agricultural engine registrations are also required to report their usage for Low-Use and Intermittent-Use engines. These Throughput Reports will be mailed with the registrations and invoices in early March and will be due by April 6, 2018. If you have questions contact Tito Martinez at (530) 634-7659 ext 208 or tmartinez@fraqmd.org.
Phase II EVR for Retail Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs)

FRAQMD will be issuing a compliance assistance advisory for Phase II EVR for retail above ground storage tanks in early March. The advisory will contain information about gasoline dispensing facilities (stations) located within FRAQMD (Yuba and Sutter counties) and their requirements to comply with Enhanced Vapor Recovery (EVR) Phase II requirements. All stations are required to complete the upgrade to EVR Phase II by March 1, 2019. To complete the upgrade, you will need to modify your Permit to Operate and possibly install certified equipment which may need other agencies permits, including but not limited to, Building and Environmental Health. If you need to install equipment, the installation by a certified contractor and start-up testing must be completed by the March 1, 2019 deadline. Please contact Alam Mangat for more information at (530) 634-7659 ext 212.

Agricultural and Prescribed Burning to Pick Back Up

Residents may soon observe the return of large white colored plumes arising from the rice fields. The spring burn season will soon be upon us. While smaller than the fall burn season, spring burning provides the growers with an opportunity to manage pests and disease in the fields before the next season’s crop is planted.

Residents may also notice an increase in prescribed burning in the foothills and mountain regions. Prescribed burning is a tool to reduce the amount of down and dead woody materials in the forests that could lead to a catastrophic forest fire. Prescribed fires are authorized by FRAQMD and implemented with our partners, the US Forest Service, CalFire, and private landowners.

Managed burning can only occur when the meteorology, moisture levels, and staffing conditions meet thresholds to ensure both health and safety. The Yuba County foothill areas under CalFire/USFS jurisdictions will face a burn ban in the coming months when conditions dictate burning cannot occur safely, so many forest managers and residents are doing their managed burning while conditions are still wet enough to burn safely.

If forest managers have dry vegetative materials they wish to dispose of by burning they can call the agricultural burn line at 741-6299 ext. 201 after 9:00 A.M. each day. Land managers may also be required to file a Smoke Management Plan with our office if they have a more aggressive forest management plan. If you have questions about this program please call 530-634-7659 ext. 207 Monday – Friday.

If foothill residents have dry vegetative materials they wish to dispose of by burning they can call the residential burn line at 741-6299 after 9:00 A.M.

Please also check the website www.fraqmd.org to find out if it is a burn day after 9:00 A.M. each day. This and much more information is available at our web site.

You may also visit http://calfire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention for information and tips on how to burn safely and legally.