



Environmental Auditing: Air Quality Management in San Diego

RELEASE 156 – MAY 2022

new & noteworthy

- **Air Quality – Sulfur Hexafluoride and GHG Emissions:** On January 14, 2022, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted a final rule (California Notice Register 2021 No. 2-Z) that modifies the regulation aimed at reducing sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) emissions from gas insulated equipment (GIE) used in electric power systems. The rule has been expanded to include GHGs and to clarify that it applies to not only switchgear but other devices. The rule also updates maximum annual SF₆ emission rates for owners of GIE equipment; implements a revised phase-out schedule for SF₆ and a corresponding phase-out exemption process; updates annual emission limits and methods for calculating emissions; amends reporting, recordkeeping, and inventory requirements; and adopts a nameplate capacity adjustment procedure. This rule was effective January 1, 2022.

This change impacts **Air Quality Management in SDAPCD (Introduction and Rulebook D, State-wide Rules)**.

- **Air Quality – Prohibitions on Certain Hydrofluorocarbons:** On January 7, 2022, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted a final rule (California Notice Register 2021 No. 1-Z) that modifies the state regulation that establishes prohibitions on certain hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). This action imposes new limits on HFCs used in non-residential stationary refrigeration equipment and new air-conditioning equipment used for residential and non-residential purposes. This rule was effective January 1, 2022.

This change impacts **Air Quality Management in SDAPCD (Introduction and Rulebook D, State-wide Rules)**.

- **Air Quality – Hazardous Air Pollutants:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule (87 FR 393) on January 5, 2022, that amended the initial list of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) under Clean Air Act (CAA) to include 1-bromopropane (1-BP; CASRN 106-94-5). This substance was added in response to public petitions previously granted by the EPA. This final rule was effective on February 4, 2022.

These changes impact the **Air Quality Management in SDAPCD, Introduction** (Reference Table 1).

release notes

please review

- **San Diego County Air Pollution Control District – Registration of Specified Equipment:** On March 10, 2022, SDAPCD adopted amendments to Rule 12 – Registration of Specified Equipment. The amendments to Rule 12 clarify that the owner or operator of a liquid fuel-fired unit with a heat input rating greater than 2 million Btu per hour to less than 5 million Btu per hour may apply for a Certificate of Registration. Such liquid fuel-fired units were not intended to be specifically precluded from being registered with the district. The amendments to Rule 12 will not have any emissions impact because these units are currently subject to the requirements of Rule 69.2.2 – Medium Boilers, Process Heaters, and Steam Generators. This rule was effective March 10, 2022.

These changes affect **Air Quality Management in SDAPCD, Rulebook A, General Requirements**.

highlights of this release

- **Air Quality Management in SDAPCD** has been updated as follows:
 - **Introduction** (General Applicability Checklist), was revised to reflect changes to state-wide rules on HFC prohibitions and emissions of GHGs from gas-insulated equipment.
 - **Introduction** (Regulatory Summary and Acronyms) were updated due to regulatory changes to state-wide rules on HFC prohibitions and emissions of GHGs from gas-insulated equipment.
 - **Introduction** (Reference Table 1) was amended to include 1-bromopropane.
 - **Rulebook A, General Requirements**, was updated to include changes related to the registration of specified equipment.
 - **Part D, State-wide Rules**, was revised to incorporate regulatory changes to rules on HFC prohibitions and emissions of GHGs from gas-insulated equipment.

did you know?

- **Santa Diego County Draft 2021 Annual Air Quality Monitoring Network:** The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) has published its draft 2021 Annual Air Quality Monitoring Network Report (Regional Monitoring Report) for public review. The Regional Monitoring Report is required annually by the U.S. EPA and describes how SDAPCD complies with the federally mandated regional ambient air monitoring programs. The program focuses on the criteria pollutants which are ozone, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and particulate matter. The report is used to demonstrate to the EPA that SDAPCD operated the regional ambient air monitoring network in 2021 in a manner that is consistent with federal location and operational requirements.