



COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

December 2007

Soil Decontamination Operations – Rule 4651

Rule 4651 has requirements to limit volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from soil that has been contaminated with a VOC-containing liquid. The Rule has recently been amended on September 20, 2007 and now contains the following requirements:

THRESHOLDS

Rule 4651 requires action if one cubic yard or more of contaminated soil is excavated, handled, transported, or decontaminated per occurrence. Action is also required for operations where spillage of more than five gallons of VOC-containing liquid occurs. Soil is considered contaminated if so identified by a designated lead agency, or it registers 50 ppmv or greater VOC concentration when measured by an Organic Vapor Analyzer (OVA).

NOTIFICATION

The District must now receive written notification prior to excavation of known contaminated soil. Where contaminated soil is discovered during excavation, written notification shall be submitted within 48 hours of detection. When excavation is complete, a written notification of completion of excavation shall be submitted no later than 30 days.

EXCAVATION, HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION, DECONTAMINATION, DISPOSAL

During excavation, contamination levels shall be measured and recorded. Contaminated soil shall be sprayed with water or vapor suppressant. Within 30 minutes, excavated contaminated soil must be placed in sealed containers or loaded into trucks and covered. Inactive piles must be sprayed with water or vapor suppressant and covered with heavy duty plastic sheeting. Alternatively, the piles can be covered with six inches of uncontaminated soil.

District permits will be required for all soil decontamination equipment and operations.

Contaminated soil shall be decontaminated, recycled, disposed of in an approved facility, permanently covered with 6 inches of uncontaminated soil, or transported out of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Contaminated soil shall not be aerated.

This rule may affect your operations in many ways not mentioned in this Bulletin. Please consult the full text of the rule at the following link <http://valleyair.org/rules/currentrules/r4651.pdf> for emergency response, notification requirements, recordkeeping requirements, sampling and test methods. You may also call the District's Small Business Assistance at the following numbers:

Modesto Office 209-557-6446 Fresno Office 559-230-5888 Bakersfield Office 661-326-6969