

After the Application Is Evaluated

When a project meets all the requirements, an Authority to Construct (ATC) is generated and sent to the applicant. A processing fee will be determined based on the amount of time spent evaluating the project application. The applicant should review the ATC within 10 days and contact the Permit Services Department with any comments or questions.

Applicants must notify the Compliance Department at the District office when the installation or modification is completed. A Compliance inspector will then visit the site. The inspector determines whether the completed project was built in accordance with the design specified in the application, with District rules, and with the conditions contained within the Authority to Construct. The inspector provides a recommendation on whether the Permit to Operate (PTO) may be issued.

After the PTO Is Issued

Applicants should review PTOs carefully. Permit holders are responsible for complying with all terms and conditions of the permit. *Comments on or questions about the permit should be submitted to Permit Services within 10 days of receiving any permit.*

The PTO must be posted on or near the equipment whenever possible or kept readily available on site at all times.

Permits issued by the District are subject to an annual renewal fee. Permit fee schedules are contained in District Rule 3020.

Applicable Rules

Please note that there are rules which apply to specific types of operations or equipment that have been adopted by the District as part of the plan to meet state and federal air-quality standards. These prohibitory rules apply to all sources that emit specific air contaminants, whether or not the operation requires a permit. For example, an automotive paint shop may be subject to the requirements of District Rule 4612 (Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Refinishing Operations). The prohibitory rules are part of Regulation IV in the District Rulebook.

Small Business Assistance

Experienced permit processing engineers are available to answer questions and assist any business with the permitting process. Translation assistance is available in Spanish and many other languages.

Call any of our offices.
Para asistencia en español, comuníquese con una de nuestras oficinas.

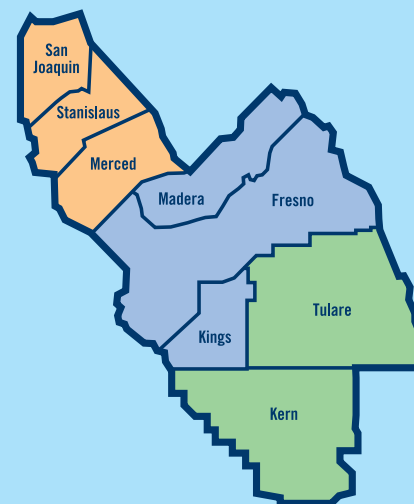
Northern Region

San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties
209-557-6446

Central Region (Main Office)
Madera, Fresno and Kings counties
559-230-5888

Southern Region
Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties
661-392-5665

For more information concerning permits or any District program, please call your nearest District office or visit www.valleyair.org.



Northern Region

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Tel: (209) 557-6400 Fax: (209) 557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)

Serving Madera, Fresno and Kings counties
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726-0244
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Southern Region

Serving Tulare and Valley air basin portions of Kern counties
34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725
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AIR PERMITS

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From dry cleaners and gas stations to factories and refineries, many types of facilities and equipment require a permit from the Air District.

Air Permits

This brochure explains the process of obtaining air permits in the San Joaquin Valley air basin. It does not, however, serve as a substitute for the District's Rulebook, which is available from any District office or at www.valleyair.org.

Who Needs a Permit?

Facilities with equipment that may emit air pollution are subject to permitting requirements. District Rule 2020

(Exemptions) lists the types and sizes of devices exempt from permit requirements. In addition, some equipment may require a Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration (e.g., boilers rated at 2 to 5 MMBtu/hr). Contact the District for further information on permitting requirements.



Authority to Construct

An Authority to Construct (ATC) must be obtained before building or installing a new emissions unit or modifying an existing emissions unit that requires a permit.

Permit to Operate

A Permit to Operate (PTO) is issued after all construction that was approved under the Authority to Construct is completed and the emission unit has demonstrated compliance.

Application Forms

Permit application forms and instructions may be obtained by mail, in person from any of the three District offices or at www.valleyair.org.

Pre-Application Meeting

Applicants are encouraged to meet with District staff before submitting applications. Pre-application meetings:

- Allow applicants to fully explain proposed projects
- Assist applicants in properly completing applications
- Allow discussion of compliance options
- Provide District staff an opportunity to explain permit requirements

A pre-application meeting may be scheduled with the Permit Services Department at any District office.

Types of facilities and equipment that may require permits include, but are not limited to:

- Dairies and farms
- Boilers and steam generators
- Cotton gins
- Concrete/asphalt batch plants
- Dry cleaners
- Engines
- Feed and grain mills
- Gasoline stations
- Oil/gas drilling and production
- Organic liquid storage
- Paint spray booths/coating operations
- Sand and gravel operations
- Solvent cleaners (degreasers)
- Woodworking shops



Submitting Applications

Applications may be submitted to any District office by mail or in person. Include all information requested in the application. Application filing fees are required and should be submitted with the application to avoid delays. If the fee is not submitted with the application, the District will bill the applicant.

Evaluating Applications

Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. All applications receive a preliminary review, which determines if an application is complete. If an application is incomplete, additional information will be requested within 30 days of the date the application is received. Complete applications generally are assigned for final engineering review in the order they are deemed complete.

New Source Review (NSR)

New sources of air pollution and modifications of existing sources must comply with District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Source Review). The NSR rule allows the District to issue permits to new and expanding businesses without interfering with efforts to meet state and federal health-based air quality standards. NSR contains three main requirements: Best Available Air Pollution Control Technology (BACT), Emissions Offsets and Public Notice.

Best Available Control Technology (BACT)

BACT is required for new and modified units that result in increases in emissions greater than two pounds per day, as calculated per District Rule 2201. At a minimum, BACT is the most stringent control technique that has been achieved in practice on similar equipment. If there is a more effective control that is both technologically feasible and cost effective, the more effective control technique must be used. A compilation of District BACT guidelines is available on the District's website at www.valleyair.org.

Emissions Offsets

Emissions offsets are reductions that are provided to mitigate air-pollution increases from new or modified sources. District Rule 2201 requires offsets for increases in permitted emissions above certain trigger levels.

Offsets, when required, may be provided by onsite or offsite emissions reductions and must be real, surplus, quantifiable, enforceable and permanent. Offsets also may be obtained by purchasing emissions-reduction credits from another party. Procedures for the banking and use of emission-reduction credits are described in Rule 2301 (Emission Reduction Credit Banking) in Regulation II of the District Rulebook. A list of names and addresses of owners of emission-reduction credit certificates is available from any District office or may be downloaded at www.valleyair.org.

Public Notice

The New Source Review Rule (NSR) requires a public comment period for projects with potentially significant emissions.