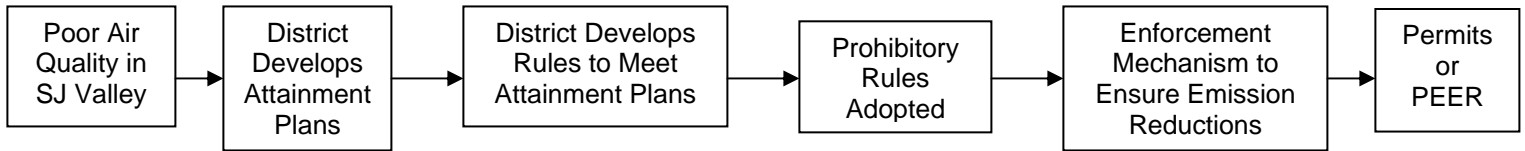


Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is PEER necessary?

PEER is necessary to enforce the requirements of certain District prohibitory rules in which the emissions equipment is exempt from permitting requirements. The basis for the PEER program may be summarized with the following diagram:



2. What types of units need a PEER?

- a. Per District Rule 4702, units requiring PEER are IC engines greater than 50 bhp used at smaller agricultural operations that do not require permits:
 - i. Agricultural operations with actual emissions less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the major source thresholds. Currently 12.5 ton/year for either NO_x or VOC. The threshold is planned to lower to 5 ton/year for either NO_x or VOC on December 18, 2008. Those sources that become subject to District permitting requirements due to the new threshold will have six months to apply for a District permit.
- b. Per District Rule 4307, units requiring PEER are boilers, steam generators, and process heaters subject to the requirements of 4307 *and* that do not require permits:
 - i. Natural gas and/or LPG fired units between 2 - 5 MMBtu/hr at non-agricultural operations, and
 - ii. Units between 2 - 5 MMBtu/hr (any fuel type) at an agricultural operation with actual emissions less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the major source thresholds.
- c. Per District Rule 4622, units requiring PEER are mobile fuelers, which are any gasoline delivery vessels with an attached container that is used to transport and dispense gasoline from an onboard storage container into any motor vehicle fuel tank. Mobile fuelers used solely for refueling aircraft are not subject to PEER.

3. Where are the PEER applications?

PEER applications will be available on the District's website at <http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/PEER/ApplicationForms.htm> and at one of the three District offices (Modesto, Fresno, and Bakersfield). The contact information for each office can be found at http://www.valleyair.org/General_info/contact_the_district.htm

4. When are PEER applications due?

Please use the following link for PEER application deadlines:
http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/PEER/peer_application_deadlines.htm

5. Is it necessary to submit the application-filing fees with my application?

It is not necessary to submit the application-filing fees with your application. An invoice will be mailed for collection of the application-filing fees, which are determined upon processing of your application(s).

6. How to comply with the State's Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for STATIONARY diesel-fired agricultural IC engines:

For existing agricultural engines, this regulation is satisfied by District Rule 4702 (*Stationary Internal Combustion Engines - Phase 2*) in combination with the District's permitting or Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration (PEER) program. These District regulations are considered equivalent to the Stationary ATCM for agricultural engines. Therefore, no further action is required beyond compliance with District regulations in order to satisfy the Stationary ATCM.

7. How to comply with the State's Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for PORTABLE diesel-fired agricultural IC engines:

Per the California Air Resources Board (CARB), farm-owned (non-rental) portable engines need only comply with the **Stationary** ATCM since it was intended to apply to those units that continuously operated at a particular stationary source. No further action beyond compliance with District regulations is needed in order to satisfy the Stationary ATCM.

For rental engines, the Portable ATCM is applicable. In most cases, District Rule 4702 in combination with the District's permitting or PEER program satisfy the Portable ATCM.

8. If not subject to Permits, can a state portable or district portable registration be used instead of a PEER?

Engines operated as part of a stationary source are subject to District Rule 4702 and must obtain a PEER if not subject to Permits, even if that engine operates at other locations with a state or District portable registration. Please note, owners/operators are not required to file for a PEER until the applicable Rule 4702 date (see link for dates):

http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/PEER/peer_application_deadlines.htm

9. Is PEER required for portable equipment?

Yes, PEER applies to portable and stationary units operated as a part of a stationary source. By "operate as part of a stationary source", we mean that the unit is part of primary, ongoing function of the facility; such as a stationary irrigation pump IC engine or a portable booster pump IC engine at a farm or an electrical generator that supplements power in a demand reduction program. Exceptions from stationary source operation will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but an exception could be made for equipment used for maintenance or repair.

10. How will PEER apply to rental equipment?

If the rental equipment falls under the applicability of PEER (see Question #2 above), and is operated as part of a stationary source, the equipment is required to obtain a PEER. In the event of a violation, both the current operator and the rental company could be held responsible. However, in practice, the District will make case-by-case determinations of the responsible party, depending on the nature of the requirement/violation.

11. Can a District permit be used instead of a PEER?

Yes, a District permit can be used instead of a PEER since the permit will enforce the requirements of the applicable rules.