

## Winery Permitting Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Q: Do I need a permit?**

A: If your production exceeds 20,000 cases of wine per year then you need a permit; otherwise, please complete the production certification statement and return it to the District.

**Q: What types of equipment needs permits?**

A: This permitting action will focus on wine storage and fermentation tanks.

**Q: With regard to the 20,000 cases/year permitting threshold, what constitutes a “year”?**

A: A “year” is any 12 consecutive month period.

**Q: If I own two wineries at different physical locations, is the permit applicability based on the combined production capacity of the two wineries?**

A: The 20,000 cases/year permitting threshold applies to each physical location separately. However, the District will need to conduct a case-by-case assessment for wineries located immediately adjacent to each other and that are under common ownership or control.

**Q: If I am subject to this permitting action, can I still operate while the permit evaluation is in progress?**

A: Yes. Wine fermentation and storage operations subject to this permitting initiative will be issued “grandfathered” permits that are effective when the permit application form is received by the District. District Rules provide an “application shield” to allow “grandfathered” equipment to continue operating while permits are being issued.

**Q: If I send all my grapes to an offsite 3<sup>rd</sup> party fermentation and storage facility for processing (e.g. a “custom crush” facility), do I need to get permits?**

A: No. Only the site where the actual fermentation and storage operations occur needs to get permits if its production exceeds 20,000 cases per year or 47,600 gallons per year.

**Q: Which forms do I need to fill out and submit to the District?**

A: The District will send out a mailer to potentially affected wineries. This mailer will include all the forms necessary for this permitting initiative. Also, a copy of this mailer will be available from the District. In case your production exceeds the production thresholds (20,000 cases per year or 47,600 gallons per year) but have not received the District application forms, please immediately contact District staff.

**Q: Are there any fees associated with this permitting action?**

A: There is a \$79 application filing fee per tank, which is due when the application is submitted. There is also an annual permit fee for each tank, which depends on the tank size.

**Q: What if I change my operation while the permit evaluation is in progress?**

A: Please contact the District if you are currently in process of adding tanks – we may be able to issue “grandfathered” permits for the tanks.

**Q: What if I want to add tanks after the permits have been issued?**

A: Once the “grandfathered” permits have been issued, any new tank installation will require an Authority to Construct (ATC) permit before the tank can be installed. ATC permit application forms are available from the District.

**Q: Will this permitting action involve GHG emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>)?**

A: No. This permitting action primarily involves VOC emissions from wine fermentation and storage.

**Q: Who can I contact if I have further questions?**

A: **Nick Peirce** (Permit Services Manager) at (209) 557-6400, [Nick.Peirce@valleyair.org](mailto:Nick.Peirce@valleyair.org) or **James Harader** (Senior Air Quality Engineer) at (209) 557-6445, [James.Harader@valleyair.org](mailto:James.Harader@valleyair.org)