



Minnesota  
Pollution  
Control  
Agency

Policy and  
Planning  
Division  
Regulators  
Section

# Air Quality Compliance Requirements for Concrete Manufacturers

Air Quality Fact Sheet No. 4.21, November 1998

Now that the air quality rules governing concrete manufacturers are in effect, it's important for you to know how to comply with them. The new rules, which became effective November 30, 1998, are found in Minn. R. 7011.0850 through 7011.0860. This fact sheet is a reference for you to use whenever you have questions about how to comply with Minnesota's air quality rules.

## **Does this rule apply to me?**

The rule applies to any facility that manufactures concrete and sells it, regardless of whether or not an air emissions permit is required. This includes ready-mix, block and precast concrete manufacturers. It does not apply to individuals who manufacture concrete for their personal use.

## **What is everyone required to do?**

### Filter required

All emissions during receiving of cement and other cementitious materials, such as fly ash, are required to pass through a filter. If you do not already have filters on all of your cementitious materials-receiving devices, you have until November 30, 1999, to have filters in place.

### Visible emissions observation

You are required to have an employee or designee observe the outlet from the fabric filter during the receiving of cementitious materials **at least once each day cementitious material is received**. They will need to record (1) whether any visible emissions are observed (yes or no), (2) the

time period during which the observation was made and (3) the date.

These records must be kept for five years.

If you observe visible emissions, you are required to take all practical steps to change your operations to reduce emissions, and to take action to eliminate visible emissions before the next business day.

### Maintaining the filter control equipment

You are required to properly operate and maintain the filter control equipment. You will also need to conduct an annual internal and external inspection of the filter to ensure it is in proper condition.

You must keep a record of:

- the activities conducted in the inspection,
- the date the activity was completed and
- any corrective actions taken, such as replacing a filter, etc.

These records must be kept for five years.

## **What other requirements apply to me?**

### Dust control

You are required to take reasonable precautions to prevent fugitive dust emissions from going beyond your property. This includes dust from the handling, use, transporting or storage of any materials as well as the use, repair or construction of roads, driveways, etc. on your property. Reasonable measures to suppress fugitive dust emissions may include:





- cleaning and sweeping roads;
- use of curtains or socks for truck loading;
- use of water sprays during truck loading; and/or
- the use of water or other dust suppressants on stockpiles or aggregate transfer points.

### Noise

You must comply with the noise pollution control rules in chapter 7030. For more information, call (651) 296-7898.

### Breakdown procedures

If your process or control equipment breaks down and causes an increase in emissions for more than an hour, you are required to notify the MPCA within 24 hours of the breakdown (call 651/296-7300).

### Do I need an air emissions permit?

To determine whether you need a permit for your plant, answer the questions in the flow chart on the next page, using Tables A and B.

### What if I already have an emissions permit?

If you currently hold an air emissions permit and no longer need one under this rule, call the Air Quality Helpline at (651) 282-5844 or (800) 657-3864 for information about how to have your permit voided.

### Where and how long do I need to keep records?

All records for the current calendar year must be kept at the plant site. Records for years prior to the current calendar year may be kept at the plant site or at an office of the owner or operator of the plant.

### Where can I get more information or assistance?

Call the Air Quality Helpline at (651) 282-5844 or (800) 646-6247 if you have questions about any of the information in this fact sheet. If you have fewer than 100 employees, call the Small Business Assistance Program at (651) 282-6143 or (800) 657-3938 for compliance assistance.

**Table A****(Only applies if you choose 360,000-ton limit.)**

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| Record the date and time of the road dust control action and the initials of the person making the record. |
| Record the amount of water or dust suppressant applied.  |
| Apply any commercially available dust suppressant used in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.       |

**Table B****Allowable activities and equipment\***

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| Storage piles  |
| Transferring aggregate and cementitious material   |
| Mixers and block-forming equipment   |
| Loading weigh hoppers, mixers, and trucks  |
| Mobile vehicles, such as trucks, front-end loaders and forklifts   |
| Aggregate heaters used solely to improve the flowability of aggregate used in manufacturing concrete and burning only natural gas, propane, No. 1 fuel oil and/or No. 2 fuel oil   |
| Individual direct heating equipment (such as a boiler) with rated heat input capacity of less than 10,000,000 Btu per hour burning natural gas, propane, No. 1 fuel oil and/or No. 2 fuel oil  |
| Nonmobile internal combustion engines (such as emergency generators) burning less than 37,500 gallons per calendar year of gasoline, No. 1 fuel oil or No. 2 fuel oil combined   |
| Storage tanks for liquid petroleum gas, liquid natural gas or natural gas  |
| Routine housekeeping or plant upkeep and maintenance of buildings and grounds  |
| Above- and below-ground storage tanks with a combined total capacity of less than 100,000 gallons  |
| Gasoline storage tanks with a combined total capacity of less than 10,000 gallons  |
| Brazing, soldering or welding equipment  |
| Any of the other insignificant activities listed in Minn. R. 7007.1300, subp. 2 or 3. Call the Air Quality Helpline at (651) 282-5844 or (800) 646-6247 for a list of these activities.  |
| Total annual usage or purchase of less than 500 gallons of materials, such as parts washers, form-release agents, paints and sealers, that contain VOCs. (Purchase of VOC-containing materials for retail sale that do not undergo additional processing or repackaging does not need to be included in your total.)<br><b>Or</b> , if usage or purchase exceeds 500 gallons of VOC-containing materials, you are allowed up to 200 gallons of VOC combined in a calendar year. You must know the VOC content of each material to make this determination. |
| * Burnishing, sandblasting and filling bags of premixed dry concrete are among the activities that are not allowed, unless it qualifies as an insignificant activity. Any facility with unallowable activities or equipment is required to obtain a permit.  |



## Do you require a permit for your concrete manufacturing plant?

