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Air District Board Adopts More Stringent Marine Tank Vessel Rule

San Francisco, December 8, 2005. The Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) adopted amendments to standards regulating air emissions associated with loading organic liquid cargoes on and off of marine tank vessels. At its December 7th meeting, the Air District Board voted to combine and amend Regulation 8, Rule 44: Marine Tank Vessel Loading Terminals and Rule 46: Marine Tank Vessel to Marine Tank Vessel Loading. This action expands the category of cargoes that must be controlled; reduces leak limits and improves monitoring and recordkeeping requirements for marine organic liquid loading and related activities.

The expanded cargo category that will require control equipment includes low flash point (less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit) organic chemicals such as naphtha, benzene and alcohols.

"The amendments are the result of an extensive rule development process that began with the Bay Area 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan," said Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent. "Today's action by the Board is part of the Air District's continued effort to protect public health by reducing organic and toxic air emissions in the Bay Area," Broadbent added.

The revisions to the marine vessel rules were developed with significant public input. The District formed a working group that met on six occasions and held public workshops in 2002, 2003 and October 19, 2005 in Benicia.

For further information and background on the new marine loading rule, visit the Air District's website at www.baaqmd.gov/pln/ruledev/regulatory_public_hearings.htm.

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