

Graphic Arts Operations Frequently Asked Questions

Registering Your Graphic Arts Operation

Q: What is a Graphic Arts Operation?

A: A Graphic Arts Operation is defined in Section 204 of Regulation 8, Rule 20. It is defined as “gravure, publication gravure, flexographic printing, digital printing, screen printing, letterpress, or lithographic printing operation; an associated coating, laminating, or adhesive operation to produce a printed product; and the use of solvents for any surface preparation or cleanup for any of the operations stated above.”

Q: Do I have to register?

A: You are required to register your Graphic Arts Operation if your operation emits more than 75 pounds per month but less than 400 pounds per month of volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions. If you already have a Permit to Operate for your graphic arts equipment, you do not have to register.

Q: How do I calculate VOC emissions from my Graphic Arts Operation?

A: A calculation tool is provided on the registration screen to estimate your emissions.

Q: Is my cold cleaner/parts washer included in the Graphic Arts Operation?

A: No. The cold cleaner/parts washer is considered separate from the Graphics Arts Operation. Permit requirements for the cold cleaner are located in Section 118 of District Regulation 2, Rule 1.

Q: My business emits close to 400 pounds of month of VOC emissions. Should I register?

A: As long as your monthly average is below the 400-pound trigger you still qualify for registration. You must submit an application for an Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate with the District before your monthly average is at or above the 400-pound trigger.

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emissions Calculations

Q: How do I calculate VOC emissions from my Graphic Arts Operation?

A: A calculation tool is provided on the registration screen.

Q: Is the exemption, registration and permitting emission trigger levels based on any given month or an average?

A: The triggers are based on a monthly average, which can be averaged over the previous consecutive 12-month period. If you are a business that has not operated for at least a year, average the actual number of months in operation.

Q: The tool to estimate emissions is conservative and I believe my operation emits less VOC emissions. Do I have to rely on your calculation tool?

A: No. You may use a different calculation that is specific to your operation but you must document your calculation method. You may be inspected at any time to demonstrate compliance with all requirements.

Q: How can I estimate emissions that are more representative of my operation?

A: The calculation method is Section 409 of Regulation 8, Rule 20. You may be able to ask your industry association, vendor and suppliers for assistance.

Q: I have other equipment besides Graphic Arts equipment. Do I count those emissions?

A: No. The registration requirement in Regulation 8, Rule 20 is determined by your facility's emissions from all Graphic Arts Operations.

Changes in Operations and/or Business

Q: I bought new Graphic Arts equipment, but I am still able to operate under the terms and conditions of the registration. Do I have to modify/update my registration?

A: No. The registration is based on the VOC emissions from your business, independent on the number of presses, printers or screen printing operations you have.

Q: I am currently registered, but my business has changed and my monthly VOC emissions will be more than 400 pounds per month. How do I change from a Registration to a Permit to Operate?

A: You should submit a permit application to the District. Instructions and forms can be found on Form P-101B Instructions which can be downloaded at www.baagmd.gov. Indicate in a cover letter that you are currently registered.

Q: I no longer qualify for registration and I need to get a Permit to Operate. Can I get a (partial) refund for my registration?

A: No. Registration fees are not refundable.

Q: My contact information (e.g. address, telephone, e-mail) has changed. How do I update my information?

A: Call 415-749-4990 for assistance.

Q: After completing the registration process, I found out I made an error. How do I fix it?

A: Call 415-749-4990 for assistance.

Facilities That Have a Permit to Operate for Graphic Arts Equipment

Q: I have a Permit to Operate for Graphic Arts equipment (e.g. presses, screen printing), but I meet the requirements for registration. Can I change my permit status?

A: Yes, but you cannot get a refund for permit fees. You may want to register prior to the expiration date of your Permit to Operate and not renew the permit the Operate.

Q: I have a Permit to Operate for Graphic Arts equipment (e.g. presses, screen printing), but I meet the requirements for registration. Do I have to register?

A: No. A Permit to Operate covers the registration requirement. You may choose either a Registration or a Permit to Operate.

Q: I have a Permit to Operate for Graphic Arts equipment (e.g. presses, screen printing). Can I register separate graphics arts equipment and/or operations at my facility?

A: No. You must either register your entire facility or have Permits to Operate for your equipment.

Obtaining a Permit to Operate

Q: I cannot qualify for registration. How do I obtain a Permit to Operate?

A: You should submit a permit application to the District. Instructions and forms can be found on Form P-101B Instructions which can be downloaded at www.baagmd.gov.

Transfer of Ownership

Q: I bought a graphic arts business that is currently registered with the BAAQMD. Do I have to register again?

A: Yes. The registration for Graphic Arts operations is not transferrable.

Getting Documents

Q: I lost my Registration document. Can I get a copy?

A: Yes. Call 415-749-4990 to request a copy.

Q: I completed the registration process, but I did not get an e-mail with my Registration document. What happened?

A: It may take a few minutes for e-mail delivery. The Registration document is separate from the payment receipt, so you will get two e-mails. Also, check your junk/spam e-mail folder. If you are still having problems, call 415-749-4990 for assistance.

Q: VOC emissions from my Graphic Arts Operation are less than 75 pounds per month, so I am not required to register and I am exempt from permits. Can I get a District document that shows my status?

A: Yes. If you complete the registration process, there is an option to download this "Exemption" document.

Other

Q: Where can I get a copy of Regulation 8, Rule 20?

A: All of the District rules are found at www.baaqmd.gov.