Air quality permits, like city and county building permits, are required by state law as a part of doing business in the San Francisco Bay Area, which includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and the southern portion of Solano and Sonoma counties. A new permit is required:

- For new equipment that may cause air pollution;
- Before modifying existing equipment that may cause air pollution;
- When a business changes ownership; or
- When equipment is transferred from one location to another.

By granting a permit, the Air District indicates that equipment should be able to meet all air quality standards.

Both large and small businesses are covered by District rules and regulations. Typical large businesses requiring permits include bulk petroleum operations, refineries, and power plants. Typical small businesses include dry cleaners, gasoline service stations, auto body shops, coating operations and printers.

Permits for new or modified facilities must be obtained before construction starts. Failure to do so will result in increased fees and possible civil or criminal penalties.

This document provides the information that an applicant may need to prepare and file an application with the BAAQMD. It describes the information required for a complete application. Please be aware that the Permit Regulations may be revised; any inconsistencies between this document and the Regulations shall be resolved in favor of the Regulations.

Note that for some development projects, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the preparation of an appropriate Environmental Impact Report (EIR), including relevant air quality information. EIR requirements are separate from BAAQMD permit requirements. For further information, contact the city and county in which the proposed facility will be located.
For more information, contact the BAAQMD Permit Services Division at:

Permit Services Division  
BAAQMD  
939 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA  94109  
(415) 749-4990  
(415) 749-5030 (FAX)

Visit our website at: 
http://www.baaqmd.gov

- More information
- Copies of all permit application forms
- District regulations
- Permit Handbook
- BACT/TBACT Workbook