



Toxic Air Contaminant Regulation Programs

Glossary of Terms

Age Sensitivity Factors (ASF) – Adjustment calculations for cancer risk used in health risk assessments that account for children’s increased sensitivity to air toxics

Air Dispersion Model – A computer program that predicts how air pollutant emissions will move from the source of emissions into the surrounding community

Best Available Control Technology (BACT) – Equipment, processes, or devices that limit or reduce the amount of air pollutants that are emitted into the air by sources

Breathing Rate – The amount of air a person breathes in over a specified time period

Cancer Potency Factor (CPF) – A calculation that estimates the likelihood of developing cancer from exposure to a cancer-causing or a potentially cancer-causing substance

Cancer Risk – An estimate of the likelihood that an individual will develop cancer

Exposure Duration – The amount of time a person is exposed to a toxic air contaminant

Fraction of Time at Home (FAH) – The percentage or amount of time a person is home throughout the day.

Hazard Index (HI) – An estimate of the likelihood that an individual will develop non-cancer health effects

Health Effect – A change in human body function or cell structure that may cause or contribute to health problems ranging from temporary minor conditions, such as skin irritation, to permanent injury, serious disease, or death

Health Risk – The potential for health effects in humans resulting from exposure to toxic air contaminants. Types of health risks include cancer risk and non-cancer impacts

Health Risk Assessment (HRA) – An estimate of the increased chance of negative health impacts for individuals that may be exposed to toxic air contaminants, based on the best scientific information available

Modified Source – Any air pollution source that undergoes a physical change, a change in the method of operation, or an increase in throughput that results in emission increases

New Source – Any source of emissions that is proposed for construction or operation, including a replacement of an existing source or a relocation of an existing source to a different facility

Non-cancer Impact – Any negative health effect other than cancer

New Source Review (NSR) – An evaluation of the air pollution emissions, potential health effects, and compliance with regulatory requirements for new or modified sources that is conducted before a project is built

Project – A group of one or more new or modified sources that are part of a proposed construction at a facility

Source – Any article, machine, equipment, or operation that produces or emits air pollutants

Spatial Averaging – A calculation used in health risk assessments, which is an average of the predicted air concentrations within a small area, and that is intended to represent typical human behavior throughout the length of exposure under evaluation

Stationary Source – A fixed, non-mobile producer of pollution, usually at industrial or commercial facilities

Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC) – Air pollutants that may cause or contribute to negative health impacts (adverse health effects)

Trigger Levels – Air District-derived emission rate thresholds for a project at which an Air District Health Risk Assessment is required