



This Advisory is provided to inform you about activities of the Air District which may affect your operation. It is intended to assist you in your effort to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable air pollution regulations.

ATTENTION: FIREWOOD SUPPLIERS AND RETAILERS

SUBJECT: NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREWOOD SALES

On July 9, 2008 the Bay Area Air quality Management District (Air District) adopted Regulation 6, Rule 3: Wood-burning Devices to reduce harmful particulate matter (PM) from wood-burning devices, including indoor and outdoor fireplace and wood-burning stoves. In order to decrease air pollution this regulation prohibits the burning of any solid fuels such as wood during a *Winter Spare the Air Alert*. This regulation has other requirements that may affect your industry or business as described in this advisory.

If you own or operate a business that sells, offers for sale or provides solid fuel or wood intended for use in a wood-burning device then you must do the following beginning January 1, 2009 (Reg 6-3-306):

1. Firewood suppliers must indicate, by labeling their package or providing information upon wood delivery:
 - Whether the wood is seasoned (moisture content less than 20 percent) and be labeled with the following text (Reg 6-3-404.2), **“This wood meets air quality regulations for moisture content to be less than 20 % (percent) by weight for cleaner burning.”** or
 - Unseasoned (moisture content greater than 20 percent) and must be labeled with the following text (Reg 6-3-404.3), **“This wood does NOT meet air quality regulations for moisture content and must be properly dried before burning.”** In addition, instructions must be provided on how to properly dry the wood before burning. If you do not have instructions for drying or seasoning wood, then go to our website at www.baaqmd.gov.

Wood smoke contains fine particulate matter pollution, as well as a range of organic gases, including toxic gases such as dioxin. Wood smoke comes from burning not only firewood, but any solid fuel. Unseasoned, or “green” firewood, produces excessive smoke because the moisture in the wood results in poor combustion. Firewood needs to be properly seasoned or dried before burning. A handheld wood moisture meter can be used to determine moisture content.

The microscopic pollutants in wood smoke can easily bypass the body’s natural defenses and penetrate deeply into the lungs. Prolonged exposure to the fine particulates in wood smoke has been linked to a series of public health concerns, including:

- aggravated asthma;
- development of chronic bronchitis;
- irregular heartbeats and nonfatal heart attacks; and
- increased mortality rates.

For more information regarding the specifics of the Regulation 6, Rule 3: Wood-burning Devices please go to **www.baaqmd.gov** for more information.

If you have any further needs, please call the District at the following numbers.

-  For questions about this advisory contact Eric Pop, Air Quality Specialist at epop@baaqmd.gov or (415) 749-5172.
-  For a copy of the above listed rule, see www.baaqmd.gov/dst/regulations/index.htm.
-  For compliance assistance, call (415) 749-4999, the Compliance Counselor Hotline.

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