



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance Advisory October 19, 2022 Cannabis Facilities

This Advisory is provided to inform and assist you in your effort to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable air quality regulations.

ATTENTION: CANNABIS CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

SUBJECT: REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR CANNABIS OPERATIONS

This advisory seeks to notify all cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facilities of the air quality regulatory requirements for the cultivation and extraction of cannabis products while operating within the 9-county jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District).

The Air District strictly prohibits the use of internal combustion engine generators – including those registered under the state’s Portable Engine Registration Program – to provide primary or supplemental power to a building, facility, stationary source, or stationary equipment.

In other words, you cannot connect internal combustion engine generators to a building’s electrical system (or connect such a generator to specific equipment within those buildings) in order to power indoor cannabis cultivation operations. This rule applies to both fully “off-grid” indoor operations and partially “off-grid” indoor operations. Use of such generators within the boundaries of the Air District is a violation of our regulations and will result in the shutdown and removal of this equipment. **It can also result in penalty fines of \$75,000 per generator, per day (and, possibly greater penalties, based on the specific conduct at issue) for those using and/or supplying this equipment.**

An Authority to Construct (A/C) and Permit to Operate (P/O) issued by the Air District may be required for operating certain equipment used in the cannabis industry, including emergency internal combustion generators and turbines, boilers, extraction processes using solvents, and odor control equipment.

Air District [Regulation 2, Rule 1](#) requires an A/C and P/O be obtained for a cannabis facility if any of the following equipment is operated or any indicated throughputs are exceeded:

- ✓ Any internal combustion engine generators used for backup power (emergency) rated 50 horsepower or more.
- ✓ Solvents used in the extraction of cannabis oils or for the cleaning of equipment or surfaces which emit more than 20 gallons or 150 pounds per year or more of uncontrolled volatile organic compounds on a facility-wide basis. Common solvents used are butane, hexane, propane, isopropyl alcohol, and ethanol.

- ✓ Boilers, Heaters, Steam Generators, Duct Burners, and Similar Combustion Equipment with more than 2 million British Thermal Units (BTUs) per hour of rated heat input.
- ✓ Storage tanks containing organic liquids and having a capacity of 260 gallons or more. Diesel tanks are not subject to Air District permit requirements.

For information on Air District rules and regulations, please visit www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/current-rules. For questions regarding permits, please email or call the Air District Engineering Division at permits@baaqmd.gov, (415)749-4990, or find permit forms and instructions at www.baaqmd.gov/permits.

For questions about this advisory, please contact the Compliance & Enforcement Division at compliance@baaqmd.gov or call (415) 749-4999.



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