



Permitting Agricultural Operations

Agricultural sources of air pollution in California became subject to regulation in September of 2003, when state Senate Bill 700 (SB 700) was signed into law, repealing the state's previous permit exemption for agricultural sources (except motor vehicles).

APCD completed Phase I of implementing SB 700 in 2004. This phase identified farming operations that might require federal permits, based on how much air pollution they could create, termed their "potential to emit."

Phase 2 of SB 700 implementation is currently underway (see yellow box on flow chart) and is focused on identifying farming operations that may require local permits. SB 700 defines the local permitting threshold as half the major source threshold. In Santa Barbara County, the major source threshold is 100 tons per year, therefore a local (APCD) permit will be required for Santa Barbara County agricultural sources with actual emissions of 50 tons per year or more of any pollutant (each pollutant is considered separately). This calculation is based on actual emissions, not on the potential to emit.

The 50 ton actual emission threshold applies to a farming operation on contiguous (adjacent) properties under common control (referred to as a stationary source). For example, if annual emissions of nitrogen oxides at a single stationary source are greater than 50 tons per year, a local permit will be required.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are actual emissions?

Actual emissions are the emissions produced by a facility based on normal operating conditions. Historical records of activities can be used to estimate emissions. Records of annual fuel use or annual hours of operation will be critical for calculating Phase 2 actual emissions.

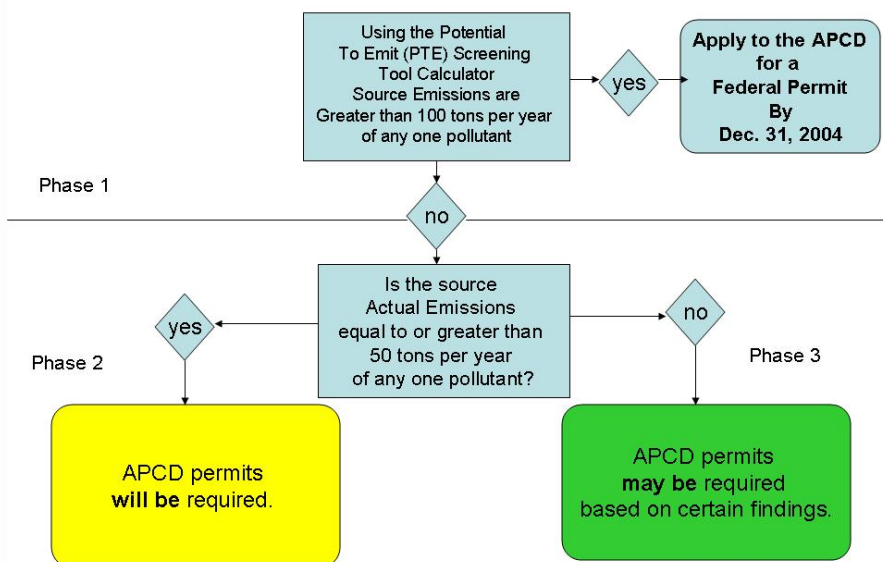
How are actual emissions calculated?

Records of annual fuel use or annual hours of operation will be needed for calculating Phase 2 actual emissions.

If all engines at a stationary source use the same fuel, such as diesel, then total annual fuel used by all the engines at a stationary source may be sufficient to determine whether or not your operation requires a permit from the APCD. In that case, emissions calculations may not be necessary.

Emissions of different pollutants are not added together. Each pollutant is considered separately and measured against the permitting threshold.

Permitting Agricultural Operations – The SB 700 Process



The APCD is developing tools to help farmers calculate their emissions, and determine permit applicability. These tools will be available on APCD's website, and will be discussed and explained at workshops. It is anticipated that internal combustion engines (ICEs) will be the primary driver of actual emissions, so the initial tools will center on nitrogen oxides (NOx) and reactive organic compound (ROC) emissions from ICEs. Emissions from both portable and stationary ICEs are included in Phase 2 (see the table below). Emissions from portable engines that are used at more than one stationary source will need to be allocated to each stationary source based on the portion of hours or fuel used at each source. If an agricultural operation has other emitting equipment or activities noted in the table below, these will also need to be considered in the actual emission calculations.

Local Permit Applicability

Is this Equipment/Activity Included in the Actual Emissions Calculation?

Yes	No
Stationary and portable engines using any fuel; includes water well pumps, booster pumps, wind machines, frost protection, welders, and generator engines	Electrically driven irrigation pumps and other electrically driven equipment.
Heaters and boilers	Vehicles and mobile equipment such as tractors, harvesters, and sprayers
Confined animal facility (CAF); dairy, cattle feedlot, poultry (fugitive VOC and ammonia emissions from animal waste).	Fugitive dust from tilling
Cattle grazing (fugitive VOC and ammonia emissions from animal waste).	Fugitive dust from paved and unpaved roads
Horse breeding (fugitive VOC and ammonia emissions from animal waste).	Pesticides
Gasoline storage and dispensing equipment	Fertilizers
	Open burning & burn barrels
	Diesel storage and dispensing equipment
	Welding fumes

Frequently Asked Questions

What does contiguous acreage mean?

Contiguous acres are adjacent, adjoining, or have a common boundary. Some acreage that is not adjoining may be considered contiguous, for example, when land is divided by a public road, irrigation canal, or river. Contiguous properties may span more than one county.

Why are emissions from portable engines included in local permits and not federal operating permits?

For federal operating permits, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) does not consider portable engines to be part of a stationary source.

However, SB 700 permitting thresholds include emissions from all agricultural sources including ICEs, except vehicles. Therefore, engines with a state portable engine registration program (PERP) certificate are not excluded from applicability.

If a local permit is required for an agricultural operation, state registered PERP engines are not included as permitted equipment.

You Can Learn More...

- Visit our website at www.sbcapcd.org, or call us on our Business Assistance Line at (805) 961-8868.
- Find additional information on the California Air Resources Board website at www.arb.ca.gov/ag/ag.htm.
- Find out more about air pollution control strategies at www.capcoa.org/Agclearinghouse/index.html
- Find out more about preventing all kinds of pollution at www.greendifference.org.