

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**RULE 1146.2 - EMISSIONS OF OXIDES OF NITROGEN FROM LARGE  
WATER HEATERS AND SMALL BOILERS AND PROCESS  
HEATERS**

*(Adopted: January 9, 1998) (Amended: January 7, 2005; May 5, 2006)*

(a) Purpose and Applicability

The purpose of this rule is to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from natural gas-fired water heaters, boilers, and process heaters as defined in this rule. This rule applies to units that have a rated heat input capacity less than or equal to 2,000,000 Btu per hour. Type 1 Units as defined in this rule are typically, but not exclusively, large water heaters or smaller-sized process heaters in the above range. Type 2 Units as defined in this rule are typically, but not exclusively, small boilers or larger-sized process heaters in this range. Beginning, January 1, 2000, the provisions of this rule are applicable to manufacturers, distributors, retailers, refurbishers, installers and operators of new units. Beginning, July 1, 2002, the provisions of this rule are also applicable to operators of existing Type 2 Units.

(b) Definitions

- (1) **BOILER OR STEAM GENERATOR** means any equipment that is fired with or is designed to be fired with natural gas, used to produce steam or to heat water, and that is not used exclusively to produce electricity for sale. Boiler or Steam Generator does not include any waste heat recovery boiler that is used to recover sensible heat from the exhaust of a combustion turbine or any unfired waste heat recovery boiler that is used to recover sensible heat from the exhaust of any combustion equipment.
- (2) **BTU** means British thermal unit or units.
- (3) **CERTIFIED RETROFIT KIT** means any burner and ancillary controls or blowers that have been demonstrated to comply with the provisions of this rule, on a retrofit basis, on a particular model of unit.
- (4) **FIRE TUBE BOILER** means a **BOILER** in which hot gases from the combustion chamber pass through one or more tubes within the boiler.
- (5) **HEAT INPUT** means the higher heating value of the fuel to the unit measured as BTU per hour.
- (6) **HEAT OUTPUT** means the enthalpy of the working fluid output of the unit.

- (7) INDEPENDENT TESTING LABORATORY means a testing laboratory that meets the requirements of District Rule 304, subdivision (k) and is approved by the District to conduct certification testing under the Protocol.
- (8) INSTANTANEOUS WATER HEATER means a WATER HEATER with a rated heat input capacity less than or equal to 2,000,000 Btu per hour that heats water only when it flows through a heat exchanger.
- (9) NO<sub>x</sub> EMISSIONS means the sum of nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide in the flue gas, collectively expressed as nitrogen dioxide.
- (10) POOL HEATER means a WATER HEATER designed to heat a pool, hot tub or spa.
- (11) PROCESS HEATER means any equipment that is fired with or is designed to be fired with natural gas and which transfers heat from combustion gases to water or process streams. Process Heater does not include any kiln or oven used for annealing, drying, curing, baking, cooking, calcining, or vitrifying; or any unfired waste heat recovery heater that is used to recover sensible heat from the exhaust of any combustion equipment.
- (12) PROTOCOL means South Coast Air Quality Management District Protocol: Nitrogen Oxides Emissions Compliance Testing for Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters and Small Boilers.
- (13) RATED HEAT INPUT CAPACITY means the gross heat input of the combustion device, as supported by required documentation and which shall be specified on a permanent rating plate.
- (14) RECREATIONAL VEHICLE means any vehicle used for recreational purposes designed to include a water heater and licensed to be driven or moved on the highways of California.
- (15) REFURBISHER means anyone who reconditions a Type 1 Unit or Type 2 Unit and offers the unit for resale, for use in the District.
- (16) RESELLER means anyone who sells either retail, wholesale or on an individual basis Type 1 Units or Type 2 Units.
- (17) RESIDENTIAL means any structure which is designed for and used exclusively as a dwelling for not more than four families, and where such equipment is used by the owner or occupant of such a dwelling.
- (18) TANK TYPE WATER HEATER means a WATER HEATER with a rated heat input capacity from 75,000 Btu per hour to 2,000,000 Btu per hour

and with an integral closed vessel in which water is heated and stored for use external to the vessel.

- (19) THERM means 100,000 BTU.
- (20) THERMAL FLUID HEATER means a PROCESS HEATER in which a process is heated indirectly by a heated fluid other than water.
- (21) TYPE 1 UNIT means any water heater, boiler or process heater with a RATED HEAT INPUT CAPACITY less than or equal to 400,000 BTU per hour excluding TANK TYPE WATER HEATERS subject to the limits of District Rule 1121.
- (22) TYPE 2 UNIT means any water heater, boiler or process heater with a RATED HEAT INPUT CAPACITY greater than 400,000 BTU per hour up to and including 2,000,000 BTU per hour.
- (23) UNIT means any boiler, steam generator, water heater or process heater as defined in paragraph (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(8), (b)(10), (b)(11), (b)(18), (b)(20), (b)(21), (b)(22) or (b)(24).
- (24) WATER HEATER means any equipment that is fired with or designed to be fired with natural gas and that is used solely to heat water for use external to the equipment.

(c) Requirements

- (1) On or after January 1, 2000, no person shall manufacture for use, or offer for sale for use, in the District any new Type 2 Unit, unless the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions level is less than or equal to 30 ppm of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (at 3% O<sub>2</sub>, dry) or 0.037 pound NO<sub>x</sub> per million Btu of heat input and no more than 400 ppm of carbon monoxide (at 3% O<sub>2</sub>, dry), as certified by the District according to subdivision (d).
- (2) On or after January 1, 2001, no person shall manufacture for use, or offer for sale for use, in the District any new Type 1 Unit, unless the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions level is less than or equal to 40 nanograms of NO<sub>x</sub> (calculated as NO<sub>2</sub>) per joule (93 lb per billion Btu) of heat output or 55 ppm NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (at 3% O<sub>2</sub>, dry), as certified by the District according to subdivision (d).
- (3) On or after July 1, 2002, no person shall operate in the District any unit with a rated heat input capacity greater than 1,000,000 Btu per hour but less than or equal to 2,000,000 Btu per hour manufactured prior to January 1, 1992, which does not meet the emissions limits required by paragraph

- (c)(1). Alternatively, a unit may be modified or demonstrated to meet the emission limits of paragraph (c)(1) pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (e).
- (4) On or after January 1, 2006, no person shall operate in the District any unit more than 15 years old, based on the original date of manufacture as specified in paragraph (c)(6), with a rated heat input capacity greater than 1,000,000 Btu per hour but less than or equal to 2,000,000 Btu per hour and manufactured on or after January 1, 1992, which does not meet the emissions limits required by paragraph (c)(1). Alternatively, a unit may be modified or demonstrated to meet the emission limits of paragraph (c)(1) pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (e).
- (5) On or after January 1, 2006, no person shall operate in the District any unit more than 15 years old, based on the original date of manufacture as specified in paragraph (c)(6), with a rated heat input capacity greater than 400,000 Btu per hour but less than or equal to 1,000,000 Btu per hour manufactured prior to January 1, 2000, which does not meet the emissions limits required by paragraph (c)(1). Alternatively, a unit may be modified or demonstrated to meet the emission limits of paragraph (c)(1) pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (e).
- (6) The original date of manufacture shall be determined by:
- (A) Original manufacturer's identification or rating plate permanently fixed to the equipment. If not available, then;
  - (B) Invoice from manufacturer for purchase of equipment. If not available, then:
  - (C) Unit is deemed to be more than 15 years old.
- (7) On or after January 1, 2010, no person shall manufacture for use or offer for sale for use within the District any Type 2 unit unless the unit is certified pursuant to subdivision (d) to a NO<sub>x</sub> emission level of less than 14 nanograms of NO<sub>x</sub> (calculated as NO<sub>2</sub>) per joule of heat output or less than or equal to 20 ppm of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (at 3% O<sub>2</sub>, dry).
- (8) On or after January 1, 2012, no person shall manufacture for use or offer for sale for use within the District any Type 1 unit (excluding pool heaters), unless the unit is certified pursuant to subdivision (d) to a NO<sub>x</sub> emission level of less than 14 nanograms of NO<sub>x</sub> (calculated as NO<sub>2</sub>) per joule of heat output or less than or equal to 20 ppm of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (at 3% O<sub>2</sub>, dry).

- (9) On or after May 5, 2006, the owner or operator of any Type 2 unit shall perform maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's schedule and specifications as identified in a manual and other written materials supplied by the manufacturer or distributor. The owner or operator shall maintain on site a copy of the manufacturer's and/or distributor's written instructions and retain a record of the maintenance activity for a period of not less than three years.
  - (10) The owner or operator shall maintain on site a copy of all documents identifying the unit's rated heat input capacity. The rated heat input capacity shall be identified by a manufacturer's or distributor's manual or invoice. If a unit is modified, the rated heat input capacity shall be calculated pursuant to paragraph (f)(3). The documentation of rated heat input capacity for modified units shall include a description of all modifications, the dates the unit was modified and calculation of rated heat input capacity. All documentation shall be signed by the licensed person modifying the unit.
  - (11) Notwithstanding the requirements in paragraph (c)(7), until December 31, 2010, any person may sell, offer for sale, or install any Type 2 units that are manufactured and purchased prior to January 1, 2010 and in compliance with paragraph (c)(1).
  - (12) Notwithstanding the requirements in paragraph (c)(8), until December 31, 2012, any person may sell, offer for sale, or install any Type 1 units that are manufactured and purchased prior to January 1, 2012 and in compliance with paragraph (c)(2).
- (d) Certification
- (1) The manufacturer shall obtain confirmation from an independent testing laboratory prior to applying for certification that, each unit model or retrofit kit complies with the applicable requirements of subdivision (c). This confirmation shall be based upon emission tests of a randomly selected unit of each model, and the Protocol shall be adhered to during the confirmation testing of all units subject to this rule.
  - (2) When applying for unit(s) certification, the manufacturer shall submit to the Executive Officer the following:

- (A) A statement that the model is in compliance with subdivision (c). The statement shall be signed and dated, and shall attest to the accuracy of all statements;
  - (B) General Information
    - (i) Name and address of manufacturer,
    - (ii) Brand name, and
    - (iii) Model number, as it appears on the unit rating plate;
  - (C) A description of each model being certified; and
  - (D) A source test report verifying compliance with the emission limits in subdivision (c) for each model to be certified. The source test report shall be prepared by the confirming independent testing laboratory and shall contain all of the elements identified in Section 10 of the Protocol for each unit tested. The source test shall have been conducted no more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of submittal to the Executive Officer.
- (3) When applying for unit certification, the manufacturer shall submit the items identified in paragraph (d)(2) no more than ninety (90) days after the date of the source test identified in subparagraph (d)(2)(D) and at least 120 days prior to the date of the proposed sale of the units.
  - (4) The Executive Officer shall certify a unit model which complies with the provisions of subdivision (c) and of paragraphs (d)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(3).
  - (5) Certification status shall be valid for three years from the date of approval by the Executive Officer. After the third year, recertification may be required according to the requirements of paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2).

(e) Modification (Retrofit) Provisions and Demonstration of Compliance With Emission Limits.

Any unit, may be modified or demonstrated to meet the requirements of paragraph (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3), (c)(4), or (c)(5) provided:

- (1) The unit is certified pursuant to subdivision (d); or
- (2) A certified retrofit kit has been installed; or
- (3) A copy of a source test report conducted by an independent third party, demonstrating the specific unit complies with the emission limits at low and high fire, shall be maintained on-site; and
- (4) The source test report clearly specifies the emissions limit of the unit in parts per million or pounds of NO<sub>x</sub> per million Btu of heat input. The

source test report must identify that the source test was conducted pursuant to a District approved protocol; and

- (5) The source test report shall be maintained on-site at the facility where the unit is being operated and made available to the Executive Officer, at all times, upon request, as long as the unit is being operated. The model and serial numbers of the specified unit shall clearly be indicated on the source test report.

(f) Identification of Compliant Units

(1) Newly Manufactured Units

The manufacturer shall display the model number of the unit complying with subdivision (c) on the shipping carton and permanent rating plate. The manufacturer shall also display the certification status on the shipping carton and on the unit.

(2) Certified Retrofit Kits

The manufacturer shall display the model number of the retrofit kit and manufacturer and model of applicable units on the shipping carton and in a plainly visible portion of the retrofit kit.

(3) Modified Units

A unit with a new or modified burner shall display the new rated heat input capacity and certification status on a new permanent rating plate. The gross heat input shall be based on the maximum fuel input corrected for fuel heat content, temperature and pressure.

(g) Enforcement

The Executive Officer may periodically inspect distributors, retailers, and installers of units located in the District, and conduct such tests as are deemed necessary to ensure compliance with subdivision (c).

(h) Exemptions

(1) The provisions of this rule shall not apply to:

(A) Units used in recreational vehicles.

(B) Units subject to the limits in District Rule 1121 – Control of Nitrogen Oxides From Residential Type, Natural Gas-fired Water Heaters.

(2) The provisions of paragraphs (c)(3), (c)(4), and (c)(5) shall not apply to:

(A) Any residential unit.

(B) Units with a rated heat input capacity greater than 400,000 Btu per hour, but less than or equal to 2,000,000 Btu per hour that are demonstrated to use less than 9,000 therms during every calendar year. Compliance with the exemption limit shall be demonstrated by a calculation based on the annual fuel consumption recorded by an in line fuel meter or the annual operating hours recorded by a timer and using one of the following methods.

- (i) Annual therm usage recorded by fuel meter and corrected to standard pressure; or
- (ii) Amount of fuel (i.e., in thousand cubic feet of gas corrected to standard pressure) converted to therms using the higher heating value of the fuel; or
- (iii) Annual therm usage calculated by multiplying the number of hours fuel is burned by the rated heat input capacity of the unit converted to therms.

(3) The NOx emission limits of paragraphs (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3), (c)(4) and (c)(5) of this rule shall not apply to units located at RECLAIM facilities.

(i) Progress Reports

Any person that manufactures Type 1 units or Type 2 fire tube boilers, steam boilers producing steam pressure greater than 100 pounds per square inch or thermal fluid heaters subject to this rule shall submit to the District a report on progress towards compliance with the emission limits of paragraphs (c)(7) and (c)(8). Progress reports shall include detailed information on all burner and control technologies evaluated and emission tests. The progress reports shall be submitted to the District for the following categories of equipment by the specified date:

- (1) Type 2 fire tube boilers, steam boilers producing steam pressure greater than 100 pounds per square inch and thermal fluid heaters shall be submitted to the District by January 31, 2008.
- (2) Type 1 units shall be submitted to the District by January 31, 2010.