

California Air Resources Board



Advisory

Amendments to the State Abrasive Blasting Regulations

Number 70

June 15, 1991

The purpose of this advisory is to inform local air pollution control districts and other interested persons of the revised State Abrasive Blasting Regulation, amended by the ARB in November, 1990. The new regulations became effective on June 1, 1991 after review and approval by the Office of Administrative Law and the Secretary of State. A copy of the new regulations is attached for your information.

Revisions to the Abrasive Blasting Regulations

The Board adopted the first standards in 1976 (Sections 92000-92540, Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations). These standards included definitions of terms used in abrasive blasting, visible emission standards and evaluation techniques and performance standards for abrasives. The Board adopted major revisions to the regulations in 1984 and November, 1990.

The revised regulations require all abrasive blasting to be conducted within a permanent building with specified exceptions, require the use of certified abrasives, vacuum blasting or steel or iron shot/grit for all dry blasting not conducted within a permanent building, apply a 40 percent opacity standard to all permissible outdoor blasting, apply a 20 percent opacity standard to abrasive blasting conducted within a

permanent building regardless of the abrasive or abrasive blasting method used, change the annual certification requirement to a biennial requirement, add an alternative test method that can be used in lieu of the current before-blast test method if the abrasive fails the before-blast test and add a "cut-point for fineness" criterion which allows the use of reconstituted spent abrasives previously certified by the alternative test method.

Variance from State Law

The Health and Safety Code does not provide for any variance from state law with respect to the abrasive blasting regulations. Therefore, companies employing abrasive blasting whose operators are not yet aware of these regulations should be advised immediately so that they may bring their operations into compliance, if required.

If you have any questions regarding the revised regulations, please contact Gary Zimmerman, Manager of the Source Test Section at (916) 322-2886.

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