



Bureau of Air Quality Permitting Exemption List (May 24, 2019)

No construction permit shall be required for sources listed herein, unless otherwise specified by Regulation 61-62.70 or any other state or federal requirement. The construction permitting exemptions do not relieve the owner or operator of any source from any obligation to comply with any other applicable requirements. Whether exempt or not, the emissions will need to be included when determining whether a facility or project is subject to an applicable air regulation such as Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), Title V, or Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards. The Department reserves the right to require a construction permit and the need for permit(s) will be made by the Department on a case-by-case basis. This determination will take into consideration, but will not be limited to, the nature and amount of pollutants, location, proximity to residences, and commercial establishments, etc. Sources listed under Section A will not require recordkeeping. Sources listed under Section B will require recordkeeping.

Section A.

The following activities/emission sources are considered insignificant and are not required to be documented unless otherwise specified by any State or Federal requirements.

1. Comfort air conditioning or ventilation systems not used to remove air contaminants generated by or released from specified units of equipment.
2. Any consumer product used for the same purposes, and in similar quantities, as would be used in normal consumer use such as janitorial cleaning supplies, office supplies, personal items, maintenance supplies, etc.
3. Recreational, residential, and portable type wood stoves, heaters, or fireplaces, and non-production related smokehouses (used exclusively for smoking food products).
4. Indoor or outdoor kerosene space heaters.
5. Domestic sewage treatment facilities (excluding combustion or incineration equipment, land farms, storage silos for dry material, or grease trap waste handling or treatment facilities).
6. Water heaters which are used solely for domestic purposes.
7. Motor vehicles, aircraft, marine vessels, locomotives, tractors, or other self-propelled vehicles with internal combustion engines and its refueling operations. This exemption only applies to the emissions from the internal combustion engines used to propel such vehicles and the emissions associated with refueling. This exemption does not apply to petroleum distribution facilities.

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8. Fugitive particulate emissions from passenger vehicle traffic and routine lawn and grounds keeping operations.
9. Laboratory equipment and compounds used for chemical, biological, or physical analyses such as quality control, environmental monitoring, bench-scale research or studies, training in chemical analysis techniques, and minor research and development (this does not apply to facilities where R&D is the primary objective). This exemption extends to the venting of in-line and in-situ process analysis equipment and other monitoring and sampling equipment.
10. Non-production laboratory equipment used at non-profit health or non-profit educational institutions for chemical or physical analyses, bench scale experimentation or training, or instruction.
11. Vacuum production devices used in laboratory operations.
12. Equipment used for hydraulic or hydrostatic testing.
13. Routine housekeeping or plant upkeep activities such as painting, roofing, paving, including all associated preparation.
14. Brazing, soldering, or welding equipment used for regular maintenance at the facility.
15. Blast cleaning equipment using a suspension of abrasives in water.
16. Batch cold cleaning machines, small maintenance cleaning machines, and parts washers using only nonhalogenated solvents or CFC-113 and not subject to 40 CFR 60 Subpart JJJ (Standards of Performance for Petroleum Dry Cleaners).
17. Flares used solely to indicate danger to the public.
18. Firefighting equipment, "prop fires," and any other activities or equipment associated with firefighter training. "Prop fires" must be fired on natural gas or propane. See Section B for fire pump exemption determination.
19. Sources emitting only steam, air, nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, or any physical combination of these.
20. Farm equipment used for soil preparation, livestock handling, crop tending and harvesting and/or other farm related activities such as the application of fungicide, herbicide, pesticide, or fumigants.
21. Equipment on the premises of restaurants, industrial and manufacturing operations, etc. used solely for the purpose of preparing food for immediate human consumption.
22. Reproduction activities, such as blueprint copiers, xerographic copies, and photographic processes, except operation of such units on a commercial basis.

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23. Devices used solely for safety such as pressure relief valves, rupture discs, etc., if associated with a permitted emission unit.
24. Pressurized storage tanks containing fluids such as liquid petroleum gas (LPG), liquid natural gas (LNG), natural gas, or inert gases.
25. All petroleum storage tanks less than 3.8 cubic meters (1000 gallons).
26. Water treating systems for non-contact process cooling water or boiler feedwater, and water tanks, reservoirs, or other containers designed to cool, store, or otherwise handle water (including rainwater). See section B for non-contact cooling tower exemption determination.
27. Electric motors emitting only ozone.
28. Refrigeration equipment including Transport Refrigeration Unit (TRU) that does not meet any one of the following criteria:
 - i. using an ozone-depleting substance regulated under Title VI of the Clean Air Act and/or 40 CFR Part 82.
 - ii. located at a Title V source.
 - iii. used as or in conjunction with air pollution control equipment.
29. Construction sand and gravel facilities without crushers, grinders, or dryers. These operations shall be conducted in such a manner that a minimum of particulate matter becomes airborne. In no case shall established ambient air quality standards be exceeded at or beyond the property line. The owner/operator of all such operations shall maintain dust control on the premises and any roadway owned or controlled by the owner/operator by paving or other suitable measures. Oil treatment is prohibited.
30. Shooting ranges that are not part of a permitted source such as a military installation.

Section B.

The following activities/emission sources are exempt from construction permits however, documentation is required as specified below.

Project Emissions:

- Emissions from exempt sources must be included in total project emissions to determine regulatory applicability such as PSD, Title V, or MACT standards.
- Emissions calculations, description of the source, safety data sheets (SDS), throughput records, and any other information necessary to determine qualification for exemptions must be maintained and readily available.

Facility-Wide Emissions:

- Emissions from Section B shall be included in the facility-wide emissions.

Documentation:

- The above information shall be kept on site and made readily available to the Department upon request. The Bureau has developed exempt source log ([Form D-0721](#)) and the Title V insignificant activity form (Form D-2944) which may be utilized for keeping exemption details onsite.
- If your facility has an operating permit, this information shall be submitted as indicated in your operating permit.

Some exemptions may require additional information outside what is indicated above such as SC Regulation 61-62.5, Standard No. 8 demonstration (modeling), New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) and MACT requirements, etc. These additional requirements are specified within the exemptions.

For further information on exemptions, see the Bureau of Air Quality Simplifying Air Permitting Process Exemption Booklet ([Exemption Booklet](#)).

1. Stationary or portable combustion sources:

- i. Burn virgin fuel and which were constructed prior to February 11, 1971, and which are not located at a facility that meets the definition of a major source as defined in Regulation 61-62.70.2(r); however, modifications at these facilities may trigger the requirement to obtain a construction permit.
 - a. Natural gas boilers.
 - b. Oil-fired boilers of 50×10^6 British thermal unit per hour (Btu/hr) rated input capacity or smaller.
 - c. Coal-fired boilers of 20×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity or smaller.
- ii. Boilers and space heaters of less than 1.5×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity which burn only virgin liquid fuels or virgin solid fuels.
- iii. Boilers and space heaters of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity which burn only virgin gas fuels.
- iv. Temporary replacement boilers of the same size/capacity or smaller (including the same fuel if required) remaining on-site for 12 months or less, used in place of permanent boilers while the permanent boiler is not in operation for maintenance, malfunction, or similar reason and whose emissions do not exceed those of the permanent boiler or differ from the character of the permanent boiler's emissions and whose exhaust point is within close proximity to the permanent boiler's exhaust point. This exemption excludes operation of a temporary boiler while a new, previously unpermitted boiler is under construction.

If a temporary replacement boiler does not meet the definition of a temporary boiler or another exemption per the applicable regulation, it is subject to:

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- 40 CFR 60 Subpart Dc if the heat input capacity is greater than or equal to 10 million BTU/hr and construction, reconstruction or modification commenced after June 9, 1989
- 40 CFR 63 Subpart DDDDD if it is located at or part of a major source of hazardous air pollutants (HAP)
- 40 CFR 63 Subpart JJJJJJ if it located at or is part of an area source of HAP. If the boiler meets the definition of gas fired boiler per 40 CFR 63.11237 it is not subject to this Subpart.

If the temporary boiler is subject to a regulation such as those listed above, then a determination that the boiler met the applicable requirements of the regulation must be kept on-site and provided to the Department upon request. The owner/operator shall also keep a record of the startup date and usage periods of the temporary boiler and provide them to the Department upon request.

- v. Industrial incinerators with total design capacity of less than 1×10^6 Btu/hr including auxiliary devices used to recondition parts. The Opacity from these sources shall not exceed 20% and the facility shall maintain records documenting the contaminant being removed and possible emissions from the process.
- vi. Ovens with integral afterburners used to recondition or clean parts with a combined heat input of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr, either being electric or combusting natural gas only. The Opacity from these sources shall not exceed 20%, the particulate matter limit shall not exceed 0.5 lbs/ 10^6 Btu total heat input, and the facility shall maintain records documenting the contaminant being removed and possible emissions from the process.

2. Internal Combustion Engines:

- i. Emergency or portable engines as described below:
 - a. Engines of less than or equal to 150 kilowatt (kW) rated capacity.
 - b. Engines of greater than 150 kW rated capacity designated for emergency use only and are operated a total of 500 hours per year or less for testing and maintenance and have a method to record the actual hours of use such as an hour meter.
- ii. Temporary or portable engines that meet the definition of "non-road engine" below. However, processes powered by the internal combustion engine shall be evaluated for permitting applicability.
 - a. Portable or transportable, meaning designed to be and capable of being carried or moved from one location to another and does not remain at a location for more than 12 consecutive months. A location is any single site at a building, structure, facility, or installation. Any engine (or engines) that replaces an engine at a location and that is intended to perform the same or similar function as the engine replaced will be included in calculating the consecutive time period.

- iii. Diesel engine driven emergency fire pumps that are operated a total of 500 hours per year or less for testing and maintenance and have a method to record the actual hours of use such as an hour meter.
- iv. Internal Combustion engines used to drive compressors or pumps with a mechanical power output of less than 200 horsepower.
- v. Oxidation catalyst on generators.

3. Surface Coating:

- i. Stand-alone powder coating operations equipped with highly efficient cartridge, cyclone or combination cartridge-cyclone collection systems to separate powder from air, or other type of process equipment designed to effectively control particulate matter and use either:
 - a. Electric Heated Ovens and apply less than 100 tons per year (tpy) of powder coatings.
 - b. Natural Gas Heated Ovens with a heat input of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr and apply less than 98.0 tpy of powder coatings.

HAP containing materials are used, the facility is expected to demonstrate compliance with SC Standard No. 8 using air dispersion modeling. This demonstration must be maintained on-site and submitted with an operating permit renewal request.

- ii. Facilities that conduct surface finishing within a building and uses 3 gallons per day or less of non-HAP containing surface finishing materials (such as paints and paint components, other materials mixed with paints prior to application, and cleaning solvents)..
- iii. Painting, blasting equipment, non-commercial and non-industrial vacuum cleaning systems used for regular maintenance at the facility.

4. Wood Working/Processing:

Good housekeeping practices that minimize fugitive emissions are required for all wood working/processing exemptions.

- i. Small woodworking shops that do not conduct surface coating where the woodworking activities (such as sawing, milling, sanding, etc.) are conducted within a building and the total combined maximum processing throughput for all woodworking equipment is less than 0.19 tons/hr.
- ii. Sawmill equipment that only processes green wood (wood moisture content >12%), does not conduct fuel combustion operations, and has a maximum throughput capacity of less than 2.45×10^6 board-feet per year.
- iii. The following wood working equipment:
 - a. Hand Sanders.

- b. Hand Saws (chain saw, hand drills, etc.).
- c. Hand Distressing Tools (chisel, etc.).
- d. Equipment used for boring, notching, etc.

5. Storage Vessels:

If an owner/operator is required to have an operating permit, then the owner/operator shall submit a list of storage tanks installed since the last issue or revision to the previous operating permit that qualify for an exemption with any new permit renewal or modification request. If an owner/operator is not required to have an operating permit, then the owner/operator must keep a list of storage tanks that qualify for an exemption on-site and provide the list to the Department upon request.

- i. Any size and combination of above ground vertical gasoline storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 5,000 gallons and not used for distribution.
- ii. Any size and combination of above ground horizontal and vertical gasoline storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 3,000 gallons and not used for distribution.
- iii. Any size and combination of above ground storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 3,218,418 gallons containing virgin or re-refined No.2 Fuel Oil and fuel oils similar in composition to No.2 Fuel Oil.
- iv. Any size and combination of above ground storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 5,042,000 gallons containing virgin or re-refined No.6 Fuel Oil, fuel oils similar in composition to No.6 Fuel Oil, residual fuel oils and lubricating oils (i.e. motor oil, hydraulic oil).
- v. Any size and combination of above ground vertical storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 2,100,000 gallons containing Jet Kerosene.
- vi. Any size and combination of above ground vertical storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 30,000 gallons containing Jet Naphtha (JP-4).
- vii. Any size and combination of above ground horizontal and vertical storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 25,000 gallons containing JP-4.
- viii. Any size and combination of above ground vertical storage tanks with a total storage capacity equal to or less than 84,000 gallons containing only Ethanol.
- ix. All storage tanks, excluding those listed in Section A, with a capacity less than 38.7 cubic meters (10,000 gallons) that store organic liquids, excluding those that store a hazardous air pollutant except as an impurity.

6. Others:

- i. Sources with a total uncontrolled PTE of less than five (5) tons per year each of particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide; uncontrolled PTE of less than 1000

pounds per month (lbs/month) of any single toxic air pollutant (TAP) and a total uncontrolled emission rate of less than 1000 lbs/month of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) will not require construction permits. Unless otherwise exempt, sources may be exempted under this section at higher emission levels if there is a demonstration that there are no applicable limits or requirements. These applicable requirements include federally applicable limits or requirements. However, these sources may be required to be included in any subsequent construction or operating permit review to ensure that there is no cause or contribution to an exceedance of any ambient air quality standard or limit. For toxic air pollutant exemptions, refer to Regulation 61-62.5, Standard No. 8. Emissions calculations and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption must be maintained on-site and provided to the Department upon request.

- ii. Sources of VOCs greater than 1000 lbs/month may not require a permit. This determination will take into consideration, but will not be limited to, applicability to state and federal requirements. No waiver will be permissible if federal requirements apply unless otherwise exempt. Emissions calculations and any other information necessary to document qualification for this exemption and the need for permit(s) will be made by the Department on a case-by-case basis. Exempt sources of VOCs may be required to be included in any subsequent construction or operating permit review to ensure that there is no cause or contribution to an exceedance of any ambient air quality standard or limit.
- iii. Modifications to permitted sources that result in an uncontrolled potential emission increase of less than five (5) tons per year each of particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide; uncontrolled PTE of less than 1000 pounds per month (lbs/month) of any single toxic air pollutant (TAP) and a total uncontrolled emission rate of less than 1000 lbs/month of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) may not require permits.
- iv. Grain Dryers as described below:
 - a. Rack dryer of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity which only burns natural gas as fuel and dry maximum of 100,000 bushels/yr of grains.
 - b. Column dryer of less than 10×10^6 Btu/hr rated input capacity which only burns natural gas as fuel and dry maximum of 1,400,000 bushels/yr of grains.
- v. Laundry dryers, extractors, or tumblers with a maximum throughput of 100,000 lb/month of shop towels processed.
- vi. Petroleum dry cleaning facilities with a solvent consumption less than 1,600 gallons per year and not subject to 40 CFR 60 Subpart JJJ
- vii. Air strippers used in petroleum underground storage tank (UST) cleanups with well pump rates less than or equal to 23 gallons per minute (gpm) and Benzene concentrations less than the concentration as determined by the following equation and not subject to 40 CFR 63 Subpart 5Gj:

$$C(\text{mg/l}) = 0.075/((Q)(5.0\text{E-}04)) \text{ where } Q = \text{well pump rate in gpm.}$$

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Air strippers used in petroleum UST cleanups with well pump rates equal to or less than 23 gpm and Benzene concentrations greater than the concentration as determined by the equation are still exempt from permitting but must first submit air dispersion modeling to comply with SC Regulation 61-62.5 Standard No. 8. Documentation of the well pump rate capacity and Benzene concentration must be maintained on-site.

- viii. Mobile grinders, remaining on-site for less than 12 months grinding only clean wood. Any wood grinder that replaces a grinder at a location and that is intended to perform the same or similar function as the wood grinder replaced will be included in calculating the 12 month time period. All grinding operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to minimize fugitive particulate matter emissions. If any complaints are received, then the grinding operation can be required to stop, and the complaints addressed by the Department.
- ix. Welding performed for employee training purposes on equipment that is not part of a permitted source.
- x. The processing of whole tires into shreds or specifically sized chips. This does not include the removal of metal or further size reduction by grinding or fine shredding. Good housekeeping practices that minimize fugitive emissions are required.
- xi. Sources that only emit Particulate matter (PM) that is not an air toxic or hazardous air pollutant, located within a closed building (a building where minimal PM emissions escape to the outside ambient air through, but not limited to, windows, louvers, vents, and doors), all equipment associated with the process is located inside of the closed building, and do not exhaust directly through piping, a stack, etc. to the atmosphere. A facility not meeting this criterion may still request an exemption, if sufficient information is provided to verify PM emissions to the ambient atmosphere are below exemptible threshold. The PM emissions to the ambient air from each individual process or emission point must be less than five (5) tons/year. The facility must conduct proper maintenance and good housekeeping practices to aid in the minimization of fugitive emissions to the atmosphere.
- xii. Non-contact Cooling Towers that have the potential to emit of any criteria pollutant less than 5 TPY and VOC less than 1,000 lb/month are exempt from construction permit requirement. Cooling towers generally emit PM/PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} but some facilities might have VOC and TAP emissions. TAP emissions will be exempted on a case by case basis per Standard 8.
- xiii. Portable and temporary crushing and/or screening plant with a cumulative rated capacity of all initial crushers of 150 tons per hour or less that is comprised of a crusher that reduce the size of nonmetallic mineral material by means of physical impaction upon the material (including but not limited to jaw, cone, hammermill, or impactor), and any combination of the following: screens that separate material according to size using mesh screens, conveying equipment that transports material from one piece of equipment or location to another location (including but not limited to feeders or belt conveyors), portable diesel engines or electric motors to power process equipment, and fuel storage tanks. These operations must meet all the following criteria:
 - a. The equipment processes nonmetallic minerals only.
 - b. Wet suppression is used as needed during operation.

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- c. The equipment is not being used at the site of an existing facility, in support of the existing facility's primary air-permitted operation.
- d. The equipment is portable or transportable and does not reside at any one site for more than 12 consecutive months.
 - 1. Portable plant means any nonmetallic mineral processing plant that is mounted on any chassis or skids and may be moved by the application of a lifting or pulling force. In addition, there shall be no cable, chain, turnbuckle, bolt or other means (except electrical connections) by which any piece of equipment is attached or clamped to any anchor, slab, or structure, including bedrock that must be removed prior to the application of a lifting or pulling force for the purpose of transporting the unit.
 - 2. A site is one or more contiguous or adjacent properties that are under common control. The amount of time that equipment is kept in storage does not count towards the 12-month residence time requirement. Equipment in storage shall be placed in a separate storage location within the facility and not set up in an operational configuration. Equipment set up at a location ready to operate, shall count towards the 12-month period, even if it is not turned on.
- e. The equipment is powered by electricity or diesel engines.
 - 1. The diesel engines are fired on low sulfur (500 ppm or less) diesel.
 - 2. The diesel engines are certified by the manufacturer to meet EPA's nonroad diesel engine emission standards/tiers (40 CFR 89 and 1039).

The temporary crushing and screening operation is subject to all applicable provisions of S.C. Regulation 61-62.5, Standard 4, Sections VIII, IX, X and S.C. Regulation 61-62.6, Section III.

The facility shall keep onsite records of any information necessary to document qualification for this exemption including but not limited to start and end of operation at each site, performance test results, equipment list, amount of fuel purchased, fuel supplier certification of sulfur content of fuel purchased, and any other recordkeeping requirements required by applicable state and federal regulations.

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Published Date	Description of Change
November 25, 2011	Original List Published in State Register
July 26, 2013	Reorganized exemption list into categories Modified Exemptions (A)(2)(ii)(a), (B)(3)(i), (D)(1(v - Vi), (D)(3)(ii), (D)(5)(vi), (D)(5)(vii) Added exemptions (A)(1)(vi), (A)(2)(ii)(b), (A)(4), (B)(1)(iii), (B)(2)(i - iii), (B)(3)(iii), (B)(3)(v), (D)(3)(i), (D)(5)(viii -ix) and all exemptions from the SC Regulation 61-62.1, Section II(B)
November 23, 2013	Modified: A(1)(v), B(2) (i ii), B(3)(v), D(5)(iv) Added: A(1)(vi- vii), B(3)(vi vii) Removed: (A)(2)(ii) Renumbered: Changed A(2)(ii)(a) to A(2)(ii), changed A(2)(ii)(a)(1) to A(2)(ii)(a), changed A(2)(ii)(b) to A(2)(iii), C(1)(vi - xi)
July 25, 2014	Updated Exemption List based on the revisions to SC Regulation 61-62.1.
October 23, 2015	Reorganized exemption list into two sections, Section A does not require any documentations to be kept on site, Section B are the ones which will require documentations. Modified exemptions (old exemption number in parentheses): A.3 (D.1.iii), A.18 (D.5.ii), A.26 (A.3), A.28 (B.3.vi), B.1.v (A.1.v), B.1.vii (A.1.vii), B.2.i (A.2.i), B.2.ii (A.2.ii), B.3.i (A.1.i & B.1.ii), B.4.i (B.2.i), B.4.ii (B.2.ii), B.6.xiii (B.3.v), B.6.xiv (A.3) Removed: C.1.ii, C.1.viii Added: A.25, A.27, B.1.viii, B.1.ix, B.2.iv, B.5.ix, B.6.iii, B.6.iii, B.6.ix, B.6.x
February 26, 2016	Changed title of the exemption list to BAQ Permitting Exemption List. Added: A.29 Modified on B.6.iv, B.6.xiii Moved B.6.viii to Section A as A.30 The following was added to 6.xii for clarification: "all equipment associated with the process is located inside of the closed building"
January 27, 2017	Added: B(6)(xiv) Modified A(28) and B(6)(iv) for clarity Updated DHEC logo on header and font to Open Sans.
May 24, 2019	Clarified which sources can be exempt Modified (old exemption number in parentheses if changed): Exemptions - A.7, B.1.iv, B.3.i, B.3.ii, B.4.i, B.4.ii, B.4.iii, B.6.iii, B.6.vi (B.6.v), B.6.vii (B.6.vi), B.6.viii (B.6.vii), B.6.xi, B.6.xiii, B.6.xiv Removed Exemptions: B.1.v, B.1.vi, B.1.vii, B.6.x Moved Exemption B.6.vii to B.3.iii