



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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ADVISORY NOTICE

December 15, 2021

Rule 1100 Implementation for RECLAIM Facilities (and former RECLAIM Facilities) with Boilers, Steam Generators, Water Heaters, and Process Heaters

Rule 1100 – *Implementation Schedule for NOx Facilities*, amended in January 2020, establishes the implementation schedule for facilities that are currently, or were previously, part of the RECLAIM program and are transitioning to a command-and-control regulatory structure. The rule includes schedules for equipment that meets the applicability provisions specified in:

- Rule 1110.2 – *Emissions from Gaseous- and Liquid-Fueled Engines*;
- Rule 1146 – *Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Industrial, Institutional, and Commercial Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters*; and
- Rule 1146.1 – *Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Small Industrial, Institutional, and Commercial Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters*.

Although Rule 1100 applies to both engines and boilers, this compliance advisory focuses on providing guidance to facilities that operate boilers subject to the requirements of subdivision (e).

Rule Requirements:

As of January 1, 2021, Rule 1100(e) already requires that an owner or operator of a RECLAIM facility (or former RECLAIM facility) with equipment subject to Rule 1146 or Rule 1146.1 comply with the following requirements:

- A. Submit complete South Coast AQMD permit applications for any Rule 1146 and/or Rule 1146.1 units that do not meet NOx concentration limits specified in Rule 1100(e)(3); and
- B. Meet applicable NOx concentration limits for a minimum of 75% of the cumulative total rated heat input capacity of all Rule 1146 and Rule 1146.1 units at the facility.

Additionally, pursuant to Rule 1100(e)(1)(C), RECLAIM facilities and former RECLAIM facilities must meet the applicable NOx concentration limit of 100% of Rule 1146 and Rule 1146.1 units at the facility on or before January 1, 2022.

To determine compliance with these requirements, the owner/operator should calculate the total rated heat input capacity (BTUs) of all compliant Rule 1146 and/or Rule 1146.1 boilers; and then calculate the cumulative total rated heat input capacity (BTUs) of all Rule 1146 and Rule 1146.1 boilers capable of operation at the facility, regardless of whether any unit complies with the NOx concentration limits specified in Rule 1100(e)(3). Note: To be excluded from the cumulative total, the boiler shall be either a demonstrated low-use unit, a unit removed from the site, or a unit removed from service by disconnecting and blinding the fuel line to the unit and removing an integral component needed for operation. As of January 1, 2021, the result of dividing the total rated heat input capacity by the cumulative total must be at least 75%. By January 1, 2022, the compliance rate with NOx concentration limits for all boilers subject to Rule 1146 and/or 1146.1 must be 100%.

What is a Compliant Rule 1146 or Rule 1146.1 Boiler?

A compliant boiler falls into one of the following categories:

1. Modification of a Noncompliant Boiler [Rule 1100(e)(1)(A)]

Upon issuance of a permit to construct, completion of the modification, and demonstration that a unit is compliant with the applicable NOx concentration limit – i.e., installed and operating in compliance – an owner or operator may include the unit’s rated heat input capacity in the total as a compliant Rule 1146 or 1146.1 boiler.

2. Replacement of a Noncompliant Boiler with a New Unit [Rule 1100(e)(2)]

An owner or operator choosing to replace an existing noncompliant boiler with a new unit can use the rated heat input capacity from the boiler being replaced in the total as a compliant Rule 1146 or Rule 1146.1 unit until January 1, 2023, provided that the completed permit application was submitted to South Coast AQMD for the new boiler by December 7, 2019. The failure to submit a permit application for a new boiler by that deadline will disqualify the unit from being deemed a compliant Rule 1146 or Rule 1146.1 boiler for these purposes. Also, the owner or operator must accept permit conditions identifying the unit to be replaced and no longer operate it when the new unit becomes operational or by January 1, 2023, whichever is earlier.

3. Convert a Noncompliant Unit to a Low-Usage Unit [Rule 1100(e)(1)(A), (e)(4)]

To qualify as a low-usage boiler and be excluded from the above calculation, the facility would need to demonstrate that the boiler was in operation prior to December 7, 2019 and has been continuously operating below the following annual heat inputs: 90,000 therms per year and complying with the requirements specified in Rule 1146(c)(5); or 18,000 therms per year and complying with the requirements of Rule 1146.1(c)(4). If at any time a boiler exceeds the applicable heat input limit, the facility would be required to submit permit applications within four months of the exceedance and demonstrate compliance with the applicable Rule 1146 or Rule 1146.1 emissions limit within 18 months of the exceedance. Note: Records of readings from facility or dedicated natural gas meters will be used to verify a boiler’s ongoing low-usage status, regardless of whether a permit application has been submitted.

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned inspector with the Major Sources Team. In the event that you are not able to meet the requirements of Rule 1100 and will need additional time to achieve compliance, you may find information regarding the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board and the variance process at <https://www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/hearing-board>.