



Air Quality Regulations for Painting and Coating Operations (For facilities located outside of Bernalillo County)

New Mexico air quality regulations require many spray painting operations, and to control Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions in order to operate. Air quality regulations are necessary to preserve the quality of the air that all New Mexicans breathe.

The New Mexico regulations include some exemptions for specific types of spray painting operations that do not have to meet the full permitting requirements. The following information will help you decide if you are eligible for the exemptions or if you need an air quality permit for your operation.

What are VOCs?

Volatile Organic Compounds are chemicals found in products that are often used in paint shops such as:

- Primers
- Sealers
- Clearcoats
- Pre-cleaners
- Basecoats, etc.

How are VOC amounts determined?

VOC contents are determined by the amount of solvent in the paint. For example, paints are composed of water, solvent and solids. VOC content is dependent on the type of paint that is being used and information may be found on the paint and solvent specification sheets or material safety data sheets (MSDS).

What are the exemptions? *(20.2.72.202.B.6 NMAC)*

The spray painting exemptions are very specific:

- VOC emission rates do not exceed 10 pounds per hour
- Total VOC emissions of all coating and clean-up solvent use is less than 2 tons per year
- Sufficient record keeping must be maintained to verify that these requirements are met

What makes me not exempt?

If you use more than 800-900 gallons of paints and solvents in a year, you may be using over 4000 pounds or 2 tons of VOC content **or**

If you are spraying for more than 15 minutes each hour you may be exceeding the 10 pounds per hour limit.

If exempt, what do I need to do?

You must fill out an Air Quality Notice of Exemption form for your operation. This form is available on the Air Quality Bureau web site.

What records must I keep?

Because most shops use more than one type of paint or solvent, the calculations should be based on a combination of all materials used.

You must keep records of how often you spray paint (start and finish time) and the types and amounts of paints and solvents that are used on an **hourly** and **annual** basis. Record keeping forms are available on the Small Business Industry Sector Information webpage.

What if I'm exceeding the limits?

If you exceed the limits, you need to apply for an air quality permit. There are instructions on our website on how to fill out the application. If you have questions, call the Air Quality Bureau's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) and we can help you.

What if I choose to ignore this?

If you choose to ignore the law and are in violation you can be fined, so make sure you are in compliance!

Do you still have questions?

If so, you can contact the New Mexico SBEAP for more information and guidance regarding your business. SBEAP is not an enforcement program; we are here to help you through the air quality process.

(505) 222-9507 or 222-9583

For Air Quality Permit Information in Bernalillo County, call the Albuquerque Air Quality Division at (505) 768-1972.

We thank you for your interest in keeping New Mexico beautiful!