



Air Quality Regulations for Reinforced Plastic Composites and Cultured Marble Facilities

(For facilities located outside of Bernalillo County)

Reinforced plastic composite facilities produce a variety of products, including bathtubs, showers, cultured marble sinks, and storage tanks.

Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs), or air toxics, are emitted during production of reinforced plastic composites when styrene in the resin and gel coat evaporates. This happens during resin application, mixing, and drying.

HAP emissions are known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health problems.

Styrene is also associated with effects on the central nervous system such as headache, fatigue, weakness, and hearing loss.

Registration is required

If you operate a cultured marble or fiberglass manufacturing facility, you must inform the Air Quality Bureau, and fill out and submit a permit application form. Forms are available from the permitting section of the Air Quality Bureau **1 800 224-7009** or on our web site at:

www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/

What information do I need?

The permit application form will ask:

- ✓ The styrene content of resin, gel coat, clean-up solvent and other chemicals that you use, and the amount that you use per year;
- ✓ The amount of product you make per day and per year;
- ✓ The type of equipment you use; and
- ✓ How you apply and cure the resin.

What happens when I submit the application form?

After submitting your completed permit application form with your application fee, the Air Quality Bureau will review the information.

A determination will then be made based on your chemical use and emissions, as to whether you will require a permit or not.

If your emissions are above the federal threshold you will be subject to the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards, required to have an air quality permit in order to operate, and pay permit fees based upon your air emissions.

Manufacturing facilities that emit more than 10 tons per year of styrene are major sources and subject to air quality regulations requiring the control of emissions using MACT.

(40 CFR 63 Subpart WWWW).

What records must I keep?

You must keep sufficient records of used resin, solvent, and gel coat on a monthly and annual basis. Additional records may also be required to stay in compliance with air regulations. These records must be made available during an inspection.

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!

Benefits of reducing volatile emissions

- ✓ **Increase your profits** by decreasing your raw material use
- ✓ **Reduce worker exposure** to toxic chemicals, especially styrene
- ✓ **Reduce burdensome** air quality permitting requirements
- ✓ **Lower disposal cost** of spent solvents as hazardous waste
- ✓ **Reduce risk of fires** caused by high concentrations of chemicals in the workplace air

Do you still have questions?

If you need more information and guidance regarding your business, you can contact the New Mexico Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) at: **(505) 222-9507 or 222-9583.**

Remember, the SBEAP is not an enforcement program and we are here to guide you through the air quality process.

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!