

Compliance Assistance Bulletin

August 24, 2021

New requirements for flares used in oil and gas operations, chemical operations, landfill operations, digester operations, and organic liquid loading operations

Rule 4311 is intended to limit the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and sulfur oxides (SO_x) from the operation of flares at any stationary source. Rule 4311 was amended on 12/17/2020 and now applies to flares at all stationary sources, regardless of major source status.

Operators of flares used in **oil and gas operations and chemical operations, landfill operations, digester operations, and organic liquid loading operations** are subject to new requirements and compliance deadlines beginning in 2022 as follows:

Operators of subject flares opting to limit flare annual throughput per Rule 4311 Section 5.2

Requirement	Deadline
Permit to Operate must specify 200 hr/year operation or annual throughput limit equivalent to 200 hr/year	January 1, 2024 (ATC application to revise PTO shall be submitted to allow for necessary processing time. Full compliance is required by 1/1/2024)

Operators of subject flares opting to limit flare annual throughput per Rule 4311 Section 5.9.1

Requirement	Deadline
Submit ATC application to limit annual throughput below levels in Section 5.9.1	July 1, 2022
Comply with flaring annual throughput limits	January 1, 2024

Operators of subject flares opting to replace or modify a flare to meet the emission limits in Rule 4311 Section 5.9.2

Requirement	Deadline
Submit ATC application to modify or replace the flare to meet the emission limits in Rule 4311 Section 5.9.2	July 1, 2022
Demonstrate compliance with emission limits in Rule 4311 Section 5.9.2	December 31, 2023

Unless already required by Rule 4311 Section 5.15, **effective January 1, 2024**, operators of any flare with a rating equal to or greater than 50 MMBtu/hr shall monitor the flare pursuant to Section 6.6 (vent gas composition monitoring), Section 6.7 (pilot and purge gas monitoring), Section 6.8 (water seal monitoring), Section 6.9 (general monitoring), and Section 6.10 (video monitoring).

Rule 4311 may affect your operation in ways not mentioned in this Bulletin as there may be further exemptions and requirements. You may gain additional information by reading the full text of the rule at: <http://www.valleyair.org/rules/currnrules/r4311.pdf> or by calling the District's SBA at the numbers listed below:

Modesto: 209-557-6446

Fresno: 559-230-5888

Bakersfield: 661-392-5665

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4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356-8718
(209) 557-6400 ♦ FAX (209) 557-6475

Central Region Office
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
(559) 230-6000 ♦ FAX (559) 230-6062

Southern Region
Office 34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725
(661) 392-5500 ♦ FAX (661) 392-5585