



COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
April 2007

Fugitive Dust Control at Construction Sites: New Requirements

Regulation VIII, Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions, of the District's Rules and Regulations apply to many activities that generate fugitive dust, and particularly to construction sites.

Fugitive dust is emitted into the air by activities that disturb the soil, such as earthmoving and vehicular/equipment traffic on unpaved surfaces. Windblown dust is also of concern where soil has been disturbed at construction sites.

The District adopted Regulation VIII in 1993 and its most recent amendments became effective on October 1, 2004. This is a basic summary of the regulation's requirements as they apply to construction sites.

These regulations affect all workers at a regulated construction site, including everyone from the landowner to the subcontractors. Violations of Regulation VIII are subject to enforcement action including fines.

Visible Dust Emissions (VDE) may not exceed 20% opacity during periods when soil is being disturbed by equipment or by wind at any time. Visible Dust Emissions opacity of 20% means dust that would obstruct an observer's view of an object by 20%. District inspectors are state certified to evaluate visible emissions. Dust control may be achieved by applying water before/during earthwork and onto unpaved traffic areas, phasing work to limit dust, and setting up wind fences to limit wind blown dust.

Soil Stabilization is required at regulated construction sites after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. This requirement also applies to inactive construction areas such as phased projects where disturbed land is left unattended. Applying water to form a visible crust on the soil and restricting vehicle access are often effective for short-term stabilization of disturbed surface areas. Long-term methods including applying dust suppressants and establishing vegetative cover.

Carryout and Trackout occur when materials from emptied or loaded vehicles falls onto a paved surface or shoulder of a public road or when materials adhere to vehicle tires and are deposited onto a paved surface or shoulder of a public road. Should either occur, the material must be cleaned up at least daily, and immediately if it extends more than 50 feet from the exit point onto a paved road. The appropriate clean-up methods require the complete removal and cleanup of mud and dirt from the paved surface and shoulder. Using a blower device or dry sweeping with any mechanical device other than a PM10-efficient street sweeper is a violation. Larger construction sites, or sites with a high amount of traffic on one or more days, must prevent carryout and trackout from occurring by installing gravel pads, grizzlies, wheel washers, paved interior roads, or a combination thereof at each exit point from the site. In many cases, cleaning up trackout with water is also prohibited as it may lead to plugged storm drains. Prevention is the best method.

Unpaved Access and Haul Roads, as well as unpaved vehicle and equipment traffic areas at construction sites must have dust control. Speed limit signs limiting vehicle speed to 15 mph or less at construction sites must be posted every 500 feet on uncontrolled and unpaved roads.

Storage Piles and Bulk Materials have handling, storage, and transportation requirements that include applying water when handling materials, wetting or covering stored materials, and installing wind barriers to limit VDE. Also, limiting vehicle speeds, loading haul trucks with a freeboard of six inches or greater along with applying water to the top of the load, and covering the cargo compartments are effective measures for reducing VDE and carryout from vehicles transporting bulk materials.

Demolition activities require the application of water to the exterior of the buildings and to unpaved surfaces where materials may fall. A Dust Control Plan will be required for large demolition projects. Consider all structures slated for demolition as possibly being regulated due to potential asbestos, per District Rule 4002 - *National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants*. Contact the District well before starting because a 10 working-day notice will likely be required before a demolition can begin.

Dust Control Plans identify the dust sources and describe the dust control measures that will be implemented before, during, and after any dust generating activity for the duration of the project. Owners or operators are required to submit plans to the District at least 30 days prior to commencing the work for the following:

- Residential developments of ten or more acres of disturbed surface area.
- Non-residential developments of five or more acres of disturbed surface area.
- The relocation of more than 2,500 cubic yards per day of materials on at least three days.

Operations may not commence until the District has approved the Dust Control Plan. A copy of the plan must be on site and available to workers and District employees. **All work on the site is subject to the requirements of the approved dust control plan. A failure to abide by the plan by anyone on site may be subject to enforcement action.**

Owners or operators of construction projects that are at least one acre in size and where a Dust Control Plan is not required, must provide written notification to the District at least 48 hours in advance of any earthmoving activity.

Record Keeping is required to document compliance with the rules and must be kept for each day any dust control measure is used. The District has developed record forms for water application, street sweeping, and “permanent” controls such as applying long term dust palliatives, vegetation, ground cover materials, paving, or other durable materials. Records must be kept for one year after the end of dust generating activities (Title V sources must keep records for five years).

Exemptions exist for several activities. Those occurring above 3,000 feet in elevation are exempt from all Regulation VIII requirements. Further, Rule 8021 – *Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities* exempts the following construction and earthmoving activities:

- Blasting activities permitted by California Division of Industrial Safety.
- Maintenance or remodeling of existing buildings provided the addition is less than 50% of the size of the existing building or less than 10,000 square feet (due to asbestos concerns, contact the District at least two weeks ahead of time).
- Additions to single family dwellings.
- The disking of weeds and vegetation for fire prevention on sites smaller than ½ acre.
- Spreading of daily landfill cover to preserve public health and safety and to comply with California Integrated Waste Management Board requirements.

Nuisances are prohibited at all times because District Rule 4102 – *Nuisance* applies to all construction sources of fugitive dust, whether or not they are exempt from Regulation VIII. It is important to monitor dust-generating activities and implement appropriate dust control measures to limit the public’s exposure to fugitive dust.

For more information please contact the Compliance Division of the District office nearest to you. Information on Regulation VIII, where you may obtain copies of record keeping forms, the Dust Control Plan template, and the Construction Notification form, is available on the District’s website at:

www.valleyair.org, under Compliance Assistance/Dust Control.