



FACT SHEET

Small Business Assistance

What is the purpose of the Small Business Assistance Program?

To help small businesses in San Diego County comply with Air Pollution Control District regulations at the lowest possible cost. Most small business owners are too busy serving their customers and running their businesses to worry about air pollution. And many can't afford to hire a consultant or staff person to keep their company up-to-date on changing environmental requirements.

However, the equipment, materials and processes used by many small businesses can produce emissions that contribute to San Diego County's air pollution problem. That's why the Air Pollution Control District developed the Small Business Assistance (SBA) program—to help make it easier for small business owners to comply with District rules and regulations.

Why require air quality permits?

The permit system enables the District to track air pollution sources in order to reduce emissions and ensure compliance with District rules and regulations. The purpose is to protect the public health from the harmful effects of air pollution.

The District offers a number of services designed to save small business owners time and money during the permit process, including:

- Explanation of regulatory requirements
- Help completing a permit application
- Assistance obtaining a variance from district requirements
- Field permit inspections for routine equipment found operating without a permit
- Assistance for businesses new to the area

What compliance resources are available?

The SBA Program also offers several compliance measures to make it easier for small businesses to meet regulatory requirements, including:

- Sample record-keeping forms
- Advisories on new regulations
- Courtesy compliance inspections
- Training workshops on new rules
- A Notice to Comply policy (for first offense only); the business will not be subject to a fine if an administrative problem is corrected by a specified date.
- A Notice of Repair program for gas stations; the owner will not be subject to a fine if minor deficiencies in vapor recovery equipment are repaired within seven days.

How is confidentiality assured?

The SBA Program serves as a liaison between small business owners and the District. The office functions independently of other District programs to ensure that business problems and complaints are handled confidentially. SBA Program staff report directly to District management to ensure that problems are handled in a timely manner. Staff have the authority to resolve conflicts and provide compliance training, courtesy inspections, technical assistance and information.

Where can I get more information?

This fact sheet provides general information about the District's Small Business Assistance Program. For more specific information, call the SBA Program at (858) 586-2656.