

Abrasive Blasting Rooms or Booths

The Air Pollution Control District (District) is providing guidance regarding permitting requirements for abrasive blasting rooms and booths.

District Rule 11(d)(9) does not provide **any** exemptions for abrasive blast rooms or booths. District Rule 11(c)(2) defines "*Abrasive Blasting Room or Booth*" as "*a structure that includes abrasive blasting equipment, a dust collector and/or recycling system for recovering spent abrasive. The operator blasts from within this structure and the emissions from abrasive blasting operations are vented through a control device. The abrasive blasting room or booth definition does not apply to temporary enclosures including, but not limited to, those at shipyards or inside ships*"

The above definition was added to District Rule 11 in 2016 to clarify that the District did not intend to require permits for all indoor blasting (i.e., blasting inside any room or building) unless the room or booth was designed for abrasive blasting operations and the area included a dust collector.

The District also did not intend to require permits for temporary enclosures used for abrasive blasting, which are enclosures installed around large items to be blasted, such as ships or storage tanks. Those temporary enclosures consist of plastic sheeting used to cover the work area around the item(s) to be blasted. Blasting operations involving temporary enclosures generally involve short-term projects. However, a custom-made permanent structure that is installed with tarps or canvas materials and steel framing, and such structure includes a dust collector and is used for abrasive blasting is considered an abrasive blast room or booth. Such structure is subject to permitting requirements per Rule 10.

Should you have any questions regarding this advisory or need additional compliance assistance, please contact the Compliance Division at (858) 586-2650.