



Air Pollution Control District  
San Luis Obispo County

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District

DATE: November 5, 2013

SUBJECT: EPA Phase 2 "Qualified" Wood Burning Fireplaces Not Allowed for Installation in San Luis Obispo County

To protect public health, the San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District (District or APCD) adopted a rule regarding residential wood combustion in October 1993. Rule 504, Residential Wood Combustion, applies to any person in SLO County who owns, operates, installs, builds, inspects, sells or offers for sale a wood burning device for any dwelling unit. Section G of the Rule specifies that only District-approved wood burning devices may be installed in new or existing dwelling units.

The following wood burning devices are approved for use in new and remodel residential construction:

- EPA Certified Phase II wood stoves
- EPA Certified catalytic wood stoves
- Pellet-fueled woodheaters
- Dedicated gas-fired devices
- Devices on the list of District-approved wood burning devices

A list of U.S. EPA Certified Phase II wood stoves may be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/monitoring/caa/woodstoves/certifiedwood.pdf>

There are more than 900 wood stoves on the current list of EPA Certified Phase II wood stoves. The APCD periodically reviews uncertified wood burning devices submitted by the manufacturer for equivalency with EPA Certified Phase II wood burning devices. Devices determined to have an equivalent particulate matter (PM) emission rate are placed on a list of District-approved devices. ***Installation of wood burning devices in new or existing dwelling units within SLO County is not allowed unless the device is on the list of District-approved devices***, available on the District website at:

<http://www.slocleanair.org/programs/woodstovesapproved.php>.

The U.S. EPA recently implemented an alternative voluntary emission reduction program for fireplaces. These devices may be listed as "EPA Phase 2 (or Phase II) Qualified" but they are not certified through the EPA's Residential Wood Heater New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) Rule and do not meet the same emission standards. You may find a fact sheet listing the differences between the two programs at:

<http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/choosing.html#woodstove>.

**EPA Phase 2 Qualified fireplaces are not the same as EPA Certified Phase II wood stoves and are not District-approved. Thus, installation of EPA Phase 2 Qualified fireplaces is illegal under District Rule 504. Violators will be subject to citations that include penalties up to \$1000/day for each day of violation.**

If you have questions about whether a wood stove or other wood burning device is approved for installation in San Luis Obispo County, please contact the District at (805) 781-5912.