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Workshop to Discuss AB 1276 (Increased Penalties) and AB 3533 (Statute of Limitations)

As many of your already aware, Assembly Bill (AB) 1276 was signed into law on September 30, 1986. This bill substantially increases the maximum penalties for non-vehicular air pollution violations. This law becomes effective January 1, 1987. This Division issued the attached advisory summarizing the impact of the bill.

AB 1276 has generated a great deal of discussion among enforcement and legal staff. My staff has received several requests to have the ARB conduct a workshop regarding this matter. Therefore, the Compliance Division will sponsor such a workshop. The purpose of the workshop would be to develop a uniform approach to implementing the bill or a generic penalty schedule which would take into account AB 1276.

In addition, AB 3533 will be discussed at this workshop. AB 3533 amends Section 803 of the Penal Code. This bill would alter the statute of limitations for air pollution violations. Under this bill, the statute of limitations would not commence until the violation has been discovered or would reasonably have been discovered.
Executive Order G-320
Abrasive Blasting Material Certification

The purpose of this advisory is to inform local air pollution control districts and other interested persons of Executive Order G-320 which lists abrasives currently certified for use during dry unconfined blasting.

The Air Resources Board (ARB) Compliance Division staff recently certified additional abrasive sandblasting material in accordance with Section 92520 of Subchapter 6, Title 17, California Administrative Code. The ARB Executive Order G-320 lists the abrasive sandblasting materials that are certified for dry unconfined abrasive blasting until May 20, 1987.

Legal Requirements

The Health and Safety Code authorizes the Air Resources Board to adopt air pollution standards for sandblasting operations. Under Title 17 of the California Administrative Code, the Board is required to confirm that abrasives used during dry unconfined blasting be certified as complying with those air pollution standards. The standards require that the abrasives, before blasting, shall not contain more than 1 percent by weight material passing a #70 U.S. Standard sieve; after blasting, the abrasives shall not contain more than 1.8 percent by weight material five microns or smaller.

Enforcement Policy

The enforcement of this certification process, and thus the air quality standards it adheres to, is an essential tool in reducing fine particulate matter emissions in the atmosphere. Since the control of these emissions can have a substantial impact on local air quality, uncertified abrasives used for dry unconfined blasting are subject to the more stringent Ringelmann No. 1 visible emission standard. Certified abrasives, however, are subject to the Ringelmann No. 2 visible emission standard.

If you have any inquiries regarding Executive Order G-320, the test method, or the certification process, please contact Gary Zimmerman, Manager of the Source Testing Section at (916) 322-2886.

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