

VENTURA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

**RULE 74.1 - ABRASIVE BLASTING**

*(Adopted 7/6/76, Revised 7/5/83, 9/5/89, 11/12/91)*

A. Applicability

The provisions of this rule apply to any abrasive blasting operation.

B. Requirements

1. General Provisions

- a. Except as provided in Subsections B.1.b, B.2, or B.3, all abrasive blasting operations shall be conducted within a permanent building.
- b. An abrasive blasting operation conducted under one or more of the following conditions is not required to be conducted within a permanent building:
  - 1) Steel or iron shot/grit is used exclusively;
  - 2) The item to be blasted exceeds eight feet in any dimension; or
  - 3) The surface being blasted is situated at its permanent location or no further away from its permanent location than is necessary to allow the surface to be blasted.
- c. Any abrasive blasting operation conducted in accordance with Subsections B.1.b.2) and B.1.b.3) must use:
  - 1) Wet abrasive blasting;
  - 2) Hydroblasting;
  - 3) Vacuum blasting; or
  - 4) Dry Blasting with certified abrasives.

2. Pavement Marking

Surface preparation for raised traffic delineating markers and pavement marking removal using abrasive blasting shall be performed by wet abrasive blasting, hydroblasting, or vacuum blasting with the following exceptions, for which dry blasting with certified abrasive may be used:

- a. Removal or surface preparation for immediate application of pavement markings when less than 1,000 square feet of removal or surface preparation is involved; or
- b. Surface preparation for raised traffic delineating markers when less than 1,000 square feet of surface preparation is involved.

3. Stucco and Concrete

Abrasive blasting of stucco and concrete shall be performed by wet abrasive blasting, hydroblasting, or vacuum blasting with the following exceptions, for which dry blasting with a certified abrasive may be used:

- a. Window and door returns and frames;
- b. Eaves, overhangs and ceilings;
- c. Sweep abrasive blasting except for stucco surfaces;
- d. Completely shrouded structures or blast areas that effectively control emissions;
- e. Abrasive cleaning operations, other than aggregate exposure or paint removal related to new concrete construction or repair activity, if such operations are performed onsite.

4. Certified Abrasives

Only abrasives certified in accordance with Section 92530 of the California Code of Regulations shall be used for permissible outdoor blasting. Packages or containers for certified abrasives shall be legibly and permanently labeled with each of the following:

- a. The manufacturer's name or identification trade name;
- b. The grade, weight proportion of components in abrasive blends, brand name of the abrasive, or brand names and grades of components of abrasive blends; and
- c. The statement "ARB certified for permissible dry outdoor blasting."

C. Prohibitions

1. Visible Emission Standards

Visible emission evaluation of abrasive blasting operations shall be conducted in accordance with Section 92400 of the California Code of Regulations.

- a. No person shall discharge into the atmosphere from any abrasive blasting operation, which is conducted outside a permanent building, any air contaminant for a period or periods aggregating more than three minutes in any one hour which is:
  - 1) As dark or darker in shade as that designated as No. 2 on the Ringlemann chart, as published by the United States Bureau of Mines, or
  - 2) Of such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater than does smoke described in Subsection 1.a.1).
- b. No person shall discharge into the atmosphere from any abrasive blasting operation, which is conducted within any permanent building, any air contaminant for a period or periods aggregating more than three minutes in any one hour which is:
  - 1) As dark or darker in shade as that designated as No. 1 on the Ringlemann chart, as published by the United States Bureau of Mines, or
  - 2) Of such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater than does smoke described in Subsection 1.b.1).

2. Nuisance Prohibition

Compliance with all provisions of this Rule does not exempt any person from complying with District Rule 51, Section 41700 of the Health and Safety code, or any State statutory or common law nuisance prohibition.

D. Definitions

For the purpose of this Rule the following definitions shall apply:

- 1. "Abrasives": Any material used in abrasive blasting operations including but not limited to sand, slag, steel shot, garnet or walnut shells.
- 2. "Abrasive blasting": The operation of cleaning or preparing a surface by forcibly propelling a stream of abrasive material against that surface.

3. "Abrasive blasting equipment": Any equipment utilized in abrasive blasting operations.
4. "Air contaminant": As defined in Rule 2 of these Rules.
5. "Certified abrasive": Any abrasive certified by the Air Resources Board (ARB) in accordance with Section 92530 of the California Code of Regulations.
6. "Hydroblasting": Any abrasive blasting using high pressure liquid as the propelling force.
7. "Permanent building": A building used, in whole or in part, for sandblasting operations.
8. "Person": Any individual, firm, association, organization, partnership, business trust, corporation, company, contractor, supplier, installer, user or owner, or any state or local government agency or public district or any officer or employee thereof. "Person" also means the United States Government or its agencies to the extent authorized by federal law.
9. "Sandblasting": Abrasive blasting.
10. "Steel or iron shot/grit": Abrasives which meet either the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practices J827 and J444 or Steel Founders' Society of America Standards 21-68 or 20T-66, as those practices and standards existed on 2/24/84.
11. "Sweep abrasive blasting": A method of cleanup performed to achieve surface uniformity or impurity removal after wet blasting, hydroblasting, or vacuum blasting operations.
12. "Vacuum blasting": Any abrasive blasting in which the spent abrasive, surface material, and dust are immediately collected by a vacuum device.
13. "Wet abrasive blasting": Any abrasive blasting using compressed air as the propelling force, which in the judgment of the Air Pollution Control Officer uses an amount of water adequate to minimize the plume to comply with the requirements of Section C.1. of this Rule.