

The statute also provided for a permit system, which in Los Angeles County requires approval by the Air Pollution Control Office prior to construction and prior to operation of equipment capable of emitting air contaminants. This permit system is one of the most effective means of preventing air pollution, and the provision for a construction permit has saved many companies the expense of installing and subsequently replacing inadequate control equipment.

Under other provisions of the State law, a quasi-judicial Hearing Board was established to hear petitions for variances and appeals from denials of permits. If the Hearing Board judges that the evidence and equities justify a variance, it determines the conditions, duration and extent that a variance from requirements are necessary and permitted. To obtain a variance, the petitioner must demonstrate that he is diligently following a remedial program to develop or install controls for the equipment involved.

PROHIBITIONS

The prohibitions contained in the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District are the most stringent anywhere in the world. They govern smoke, nuisance, particulate matter, sulfur compounds, combustion contaminants, dusts and fumes, open fires, incinerator burning, storage of petroleum products, oil effluent-water separators, gasoline loading, sulfur content of fuels, gasoline composition, animal reduction processes and gasoline loading into tanks. These prohibitory rules and their intents are:

Rule 50: Ringelmann chart.—Establishes the maximum permissible time and opacity limits for the discharge of any contaminant.

Rule 51: Nuisance.—Defines a nuisance.

Rule 52: Particulate matter.—Establishes the maximum allowable weight of discharge of particulate matter per cubic foot of effluent.

Rule 53: Specific contaminants.—Establishes the maximum allowable concentrations for the discharge of sulfur compounds and combustion contaminants.

Rule 53.1: Scavenger plants.—Specifies the conditions under which a sulfur scavenger plant may operate.

Rule 54: Dust and fumes.—Establishes the maximum allowable weight of discharge for dust and fumes.

Rule 56: Storage of petroleum products.—Describes equipment that can be used for the control of hydrocarbons from the storage of gasoline and certain petroleum distillates.

Rule 57: Open fires.—Bans burning combustible refuse in the open.

Rule 58: Incinerator burning.—Bans the use of single chamber incinerators.

Rule 59: Oil effluent water separators.—Describes equipment that can be used for the control of hydrocarbons from oil-water separators.

Rule 60: Circumvention.—Prevents the use of equipment which would tend to conceal the emissions of air contaminants without actually resulting in the control of air pollution.

Rule 61: Gasoline loading into tank trucks and trailers.—Describes control equipment that can be used for the control of hydrocarbons from the loading of gasoline into tank trucks.

Rule 62 and 62.1: Sulfur content of fuels.—Bans the use of high sulfur fuel oils in the Los Angeles Basin.

Rule 63: Gasoline specifications.—Prevents the sale of high olefin gasoline.

Rule 64: Reduction of animal matter.—Describes equipment that must be used to control odors from rendering operations.

Rule 65: Gasoline loading into trucks.—Describes the equipment that must be used to control hydrocarbon vapors from the loading of gasoline tanks.

It can be seen that the Rules and Regulations affect the operation of every industry, almost every commercial endeavor, and, in the case of open fires and incinerator burning, every homeowner in Los Angeles County. Through their enforcement, controls have been applied to such diverse sources and operations as incinerators, rendering cookers, coffee roasters, petroleum refineries, chemical plants, rock crushers, asphalt plants, open hearth furnaces, electric furnaces, automobile assembly plants, as well as less obvious sources such as restaurants, crematories, and housing tract developments. From the smelting of metal to the production of dog food, air pollution-prone operations have been brought within the scope of the control program.