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Air Permitting in Louisiana: Fact Sheet and Checklist

Provided by ClearPath Environmental Consulting

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Contact: info@clearpathenv.com – Partner with ClearPath for expert guidance on air permitting, compliance, auditing, and ISO management systems. We simplify the process for manufacturers, chemical plants, and refineries in Louisiana and beyond, ensuring efficient approvals and regulatory adherence.

Purpose: This document provides an overview of air permitting requirements in Louisiana, including a fact sheet with key information and a basic checklist to help determine if you need a permit and how to proceed. It highlights how ClearPath Environmental Consulting, Inc. can assist with applications, exemptions, and compliance to save you time and reduce risks.

Fact Sheet: Air Permitting in Louisiana

Overview

Air permitting in Louisiana is regulated by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) under the Air Permits Division (APD). The APD, part of the Office of Environmental Services, ensures that sources emitting air contaminants comply with state and federal regulations to protect air quality. Any facility or activity that emits or has the potential to emit air contaminants—such as particulate matter, dust, fumes, gas, mist, smoke, or vapor—may require a permit, unless exempted.

Key Criteria for Needing an Air Permit

- Emissions Thresholds: A permit is required if your source emits or has the potential to emit regulated air pollutants above certain levels. Potential emissions consider all control measures, historical operations, and capacity.
 - Major sources (as defined in LAC 33:III.502) must obtain a permit.
 - Non-major sources may still need one if they exceed 5 tons per year (TPY) of any regulated pollutant, 15 TPY combined for all pollutants, or the minimum emission rate (MER) for toxic air pollutants (per LAC 33:III.5112, Table 51.1).

- **Types of Emissions:** Includes regulated pollutants under the Federal Clean Air Act and Louisiana toxic air pollutants. Emissions from processes other than natural ones qualify as contaminants.
- **Portable Sources:** Annual potential emissions are calculated across all sites, not per location.

Exemptions

Not all activities require a permit. Common exemptions include:

- Residential activities (unless a Part 70 source under LAC 33:III.507.A.1).
- Pesticide distribution and application.
- Mobile sources (e.g., automobiles, trucks, aircraft) and nonroad engines.
- Controlled burning of agricultural by-products, cotton gin wastes, timber stand management, or pasture/marshland for trapping/livestock.
- Small sources: Emissions <5 TPY per regulated pollutant, <15 TPY combined, and <MER for toxics; no enforceable conditions or public notice needed (LAC 33:III.501.B.4).
- Insignificant activities: Listed in LAC 33:III.501.B.5 or case-by-case (see LDEQ's case-by-case list for details). If your facility qualifies, apply for a small source exemption instead of a full permit.

Types of Permits and Actions

The APD issues various air permits and handles related actions, including:

- Administrative amendments.
- Authorizations to construct.
- Changes of tank service.
- Emission Reduction Credit (ERC) certificates.
- Exemptions to test.
- Small source exemptions.
- Variances. For detailed types (e.g., Title V, Minor Source), refer to the Louisiana Guidance for Air Permitting Actions.

Application Process

- Determine Need: Use LDEQ tools to check if a permit or exemption applies.
- Submit Application: Download forms from LDEQ's website. Include emissions calculations, site details, and compliance plans.
- Assistance: Small businesses can use LDEQ's Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP). APD staff are available for questions.
- Timelines: Permits are processed based on complexity; search permit status quarterly via AI number or facility name (reports from 2017-present).
- Before Changes: Apply for a permit or exemption prior to increasing emissions above limits.

Resources

- LDEQ Air Permits Division: P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313; Phone: (225) 219-3417; Fax: (225) 219-3309.
- Guidance Document: Louisiana Guidance for Air Permitting Actions (PDF).
 - <https://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Air/LouisianaGuidanceforAirPermittingActions.pdf>

Why Choose ClearPath? At ClearPath Environmental Consulting, Inc., we specialize in navigating Louisiana's air permitting maze. Our experts handle applications, exemptions, and compliance audits, ensuring your operations in chemical plants or refineries meet LDEQ standards efficiently. Contact us to avoid delays and fines.

Basic Checklist: Do I Need an Air Permit in Louisiana?

Use this checklist to evaluate your facility's air permitting needs. Mark "Yes/No" and note actions. For expert review, consult ClearPath Environmental Consulting, Inc.—we'll prepare your application and secure approvals.

Step 1: Assess Emissions

- Does your facility emit or have potential to emit air contaminants (e.g., particulate matter, gases, vapors from non-natural processes)?
- Are potential emissions ≥ 5 TPY for any regulated pollutant or ≥ 15 TPY combined?
- Do emissions exceed the MER for any toxic air pollutant (check LAC 33:III.5112, Table 51.1)?
- For portable sources: Are total annual emissions across all sites above thresholds?

Step 2: Check for Exemptions

- Is the activity residential, pesticide-related, mobile/nonroad engines, or controlled agricultural burning?
- Does it qualify as a small source exemption (non-major, < 5 TPY per pollutant, $< \text{MER}$ for toxics, no permit conditions/public notice)?
- Is it an insignificant activity (per LAC 33:III.501.B.5 or case-by-case list)?
- If yes to any, apply for exemption; otherwise, proceed to permit.

Step 3: Prepare for Application

- **Gather data: Emissions inventory, site plans, control measures.**
- **Download air permit application and review Permits Procedures Manual.**

Step 4: Submit and Monitor

- Apply before any emission increases.
- Handle additional actions (e.g., amendments) as needed.
- Monitor application status and comply with timelines.

Next Steps with ClearPath: If "Yes" to needing a permit, let ClearPath handle the details. We offer full-service support, from gap analysis to submission, tailored for Gulf Coast industries. Reach out today for a free consultation!



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