



Frequently Asked Questions About Nevada Air Permits

This brochure answers some common questions small and medium-sized businesses ask about air quality regulations and provides initial guidance on the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's permitting process. It is intended as an introduction, not as a comprehensive guide. Regulations, requirements, and the permitting process vary greatly from facility to facility. We encourage all businesses to seek assistance as needed.

The Nevada Business Environmental Program (BEP) is a statewide program based at the College of Business of the University of Nevada, Reno. Our team of environmental professionals provides no-cost, confidential assistance through the permitting process. BEP is an assistance program; we can help you proactively find solutions to your environmental challenges.

If you have any questions, or would like assistance, contact us toll-free at (800) 882-3233, by email at help@unrbep.org, or by visiting our website at www.unrbep.org



Does the size of my business matter?

No. The size of your business is not a determining factor in permitting. The need for an air permit is based upon the amount and type of emissions of air pollutants from the business. Even a small business may need a permit.

Does the location of my business matter?

Yes, your location is important. Clark and Washoe counties operate their own air quality management programs with separate permitting processes. If your facility is located in either of these counties, contact the following agencies for additional information:

- Clark County Department of Air Quality: (702) 455-5942
- Washoe County Health District, Air Quality Management Division: (775) 784-7200

For all other areas of Nevada, air pollution regulations and permitting requirements are enforced by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's (NDEP) Bureau of Air Pollution Control. You can reach them by calling (775) 687-9349. The remainder of this guide addresses air permitting processes specific to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Which air emissions are regulated?

Regulated air pollutants are defined in the Nevada Administrative Code. These pollutants include carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, lead, hydrogen sulfide, mercury, greenhouse gases, and ground-level ozone. Other examples of regulated air pollutants include volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants. Stationary sources that emit these pollutants may need an air permit.



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BEP is affiliated with the Nevada Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and receives funding support from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Additional in-kind support is provided by NV Energy.

The Nevada SBDC guides and assists Nevadans looking to start and grow businesses. For more information, visit nevadasbdc.org.

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AIR QUALITY PERMITS

FOR BUSINESSES IN NEVADA



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What types of activities or equipment produce air emissions?

State and federal air regulations may apply to your business if you emit air pollutants such as particulates, dust, fumes, gases, mist, smoke, vapors or odors. The following four questions can often help identify a potential source of air pollution. Do you:

- Have something with a stack, dust collector or vent?

Examples: abrasive blasting, wood and metal sanding, grinding, and crushing

- Use a process that includes paints, varnishes, solvents, adhesives or other chemicals?

Examples: painting and coating, solvent cleaning and degreasing, and floor cleaning.

- Use a process that burns fuel (e.g., oil, natural gas, coal)?

Examples: boilers, furnaces, incinerators, emergency generators, and heat treating units.

- Have an area that produces visible dust or smoke?

Examples: construction and demolition activities and material handling.

Do all air emission sources require permits?

No. Some businesses are exempt and do not need an air permit. An emission source is exempt from air permitting requirements if the facility does not meet the minimum thresholds under the Nevada Administrative Code.

If I do not need a permit, I do not have to comply with any air regulations, right?

Wrong. You might. Many smaller sources of air pollutants were recently exempted from state air permitting requirements. However, just because an air permit is not required does not mean a facility does not have air quality regulations to follow. For example, small perchloroethylene dry cleaners, auto body shops, gas stations, and small emergency generators no longer need an air permit but they are still required to follow federal standards for emissions of hazardous air pollutants.

I have regulated emissions and I am not exempt, what are my next steps?

Make a process flow diagram. This will help you communicate the technical aspects of your process or activity. Include all pieces of equipment, all equipment emission release points, and provide a descriptive narrative. Identify each emission unit and, for each, specify all throughput rates, heat input rates, fuel usage rates, and specify if emission controls are employed.

Calculate your potential emissions. In order to calculate your emissions you take either the material throughput or the fuel consumption rate of an emission unit and multiply it by an emission factor. This gives you the quantity of a pollutant emitted. The emission factor may be obtained from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Compilation of Air Emissions Factors (AP-42) available on EPA's website or from the equipment manufacturer.

I have evaluated my emissions and think I need an NDEP air permit, what kind of permit do I need?

NDEP issues four types of permits:

- **Class I** (major) permits are for facilities that emit more than 100 tons per year for any one regulated pollutant, more than 10 tons per year of any single hazardous air pollutant (HAP), or more than 25 tons per year for any combination of HAP.
- **Class II** (minor) permits are typically for facilities that emit less than 100 tons per year for any one regulated pollutant, less than 10 tons per year of any single HAP, and less than 25 tons per year for any combination of HAP.
- **Surface Area Disturbance (SAD)** permits are issued for surface area disturbances of more than 5 acres.
- **General/Construction at a Location (COLA)** permits are issued for temporary portable equipment (less than 12 months) for road and highway construction at a location.

How do I get a permit application?

- Download an application in PDF or Word format at <https://ndep.nv.gov/air/permitting/download-permit-forms>
- Contact the Nevada Business Environmental Program toll-free at (800) 882-3233.

At what point should I submit an air permit application?

Apply for a permit as early as possible. You cannot commence construction of an emission source or begin operating without the necessary air permits.

NDEP staff are available for pre-conference meetings to discuss an applicant's plans and to provide feedback on the type of permit potentially needed.

You cannot start construction of an emission source or begin operating until you have an NDEP-approved permit.

How long will it take to get a permit?

The length of time varies greatly depending on the type of permit as well as the facility size, type, and location. Our best advice is to be prepared and plan in advance if you think you need a permit. Class I permits generally take longer to complete and receive approval. Each permit type has its own review time and regulatory timelines to obtain an air quality permit range from four months to over a year.



What should I do when I receive my permit?

Read your permit carefully to ensure it specifies the proper equipment, processes, and throughput rates. Make sure you understand all monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Develop your facility's operating procedures for monitoring and recordkeeping and make sure staff is trained accordingly.

How long is my permit valid?

Nevada air permits are generally good for one to five years.

What if I change or modify my process or equipment?

You may need a permit revision if your emissions increase. To obtain a revision submit the permit modification application and processing fee to NDEP. Permit revisions are required before construction or a modification can occur. You could be in violation if your facility's process or equipment does not match those specified in the permit.



I have evaluated my emissions and do not believe I need an air quality permit—is there a way to confirm this?

Yes. Fill out the Class II Air Quality Operating Permit Applicability Determination Form located on NDEP's website and send it in. The agency will confirm whether or not you need a permit and send a letter back to you. Keep a copy of your determination form and NDEP's reply letter.

The key to a quick turnaround is submitting high quality, detailed and complete applications. The most common delays in permitting are due to incomplete applications with insufficient detail or calculations, or lacking a process flow diagram for the permit writers to evaluate. Seeking assistance early can help with the process.

Where can I go for assistance?

If you need help determining if you need a permit or understanding the compliance obligations that may apply to your business, contact BEP and one of our environmental professionals can help. Primarily set up to assist small and medium sized businesses, all of our services are strictly confidential and free of charge. Call us at (800) 882-3233, email us at help@unrbep.org, or visit us at www.unrbep.org.

More information about Nevada air quality regulations is available through the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection at www.ndep.nv.gov/air.

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