

CHAPTER 9 SOLID FUEL BURNING DEVICES

Rule 9.101 - Intent

The intent of this rule is to regulate and control the emissions of air pollutants from solid fuel burning devices in order to further the policy and purpose declared in Chapter 1.

Rule 9.102 - Definitions

For the purpose of this rule the following definitions apply:

- (1) “Burning season” means from the first day of July through the last day of June of the following year.
- (2) “Alert permit” means an emission permit issued by the department to operate a solid fuel burning device during an air pollution Alert and during periods when the air stagnation plan is not in effect. Solid fuel burning devices must meet Lowest Achievable Emission Rate to qualify for an Alert class emissions permit.
- (3) “Install” means to put in position for potential use, and includes bringing a manufactured home or recreational vehicle containing a solid fuel burning device into the Air Stagnation Zone.
- (4) “Installation permit” means an emissions permit issued by the department to install and operate a solid fuel burning device within the Air Stagnation Zone.
- (5) “EPA method” means 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart AAA, Sections 60.531, 60.534, and 60.535.
- (6) “Fireplace” means a solid fuel burning device with an air-to-fuel ratio of greater than thirty which is a permanent structural feature of a building. A fireplace is made up of a concealed masonry or metal flue, and a masonry or metal firebox enclosed in decorative masonry or other building materials.
- (7) “High Impact Zone” means the geographical area designated as such by a map adopted by the Control Board on August 25, 1983. Attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof. (see Appendix A)
- (8) “New solid fuel burning device” means any solid fuel burning device installed, manufactured, or offered for sale after July 1, 1986.
- (9) “Oregon method” means Oregon Department of Environmental Quality “Standard Method for Measuring the Emissions and Efficiencies of Woodstoves”, Sections I through 8 and O.A.R. Chapter 340. Division 21 Sections 100, 130, 140, 145, 160, 161, 163, 164, 165.
- (10) “Pellet stove” means a solid fuel burning device designed specifically to burn pellets or other nonfossil biomass pellets that is commercially produced, incorporates induced air flow, is installed with an automatic pellet feeder, and is a free standing room heater or fireplace insert.
- (11) “Solid fuel burning device” means any fireplace, fireplace insert, woodstove, wood burning heater, wood fired boiler, coal-fired furnace, coal stove, or similar device burning any solid fuel used for aesthetic, cooking, or heating purposes, that burns less than 1,000,000 BTU’s per hour.
- (12) “Sole source of heat” means one or more solid fuel burning devices that:
 - (a) constitute the only source of heat in a private residence for purpose of space heating, or
 - (b) constitutes the main source of heat in a private residence where the residence is equipped with a heating system that is only minimally sufficient to keep the plumbing from freezing.

- (13) “Woodstove” means a wood fired appliance with a heat output of less than 40,000 BTU per hour with a closed fire chamber that maintains an air-to-fuel ratio of less than thirty during the burning of 90 percent or more of the fuel mass consumed in a low firing cycle. The low firing cycle means less than or equal to 25 percent of the maximum burn rate achieved with doors closed or the minimum burn achievable, whichever is greater. Wood fired forced air combustion furnaces that primarily heat living space, through indirect heat transfer using forced air duct work or pressurized water systems are excluded from the definition of “woodstove”.

Rule 9.103 - Applicability

- (1) The regulations of this Chapter apply within the Air Stagnation Zone, except for Rule 9.104, which applies to the entire county.

Rule 9.104 - Fuels

- (1) Within Missoula County a person may not burn any material in a solid fuel burning device except uncolored newspaper, untreated wood and lumber, and products manufactured for the sole purpose of use as fuel. Products manufactured or processed for use as fuels must conform to any other applicable provision of this Program.

Rule 9.105 - Non-Alert Visible Emission Standards

- (1) Within the Air Stagnation Zone, a person owning or operating a solid fuel burning device may not cause, allow, or discharge emissions from such device that are of an opacity greater than forty (40) percent.
- (2) The provisions of this section do not apply to emissions during the building of a new fire, for a period or periods aggregating no more than ten (10) minutes in any four (4) hour period.

Rule 9.106 - Prohibition of Visible Emissions During Air Pollution Alerts and Warnings.

- (1) Within the High Impact Zone, a person owning, operating or in control of a solid fuel burning device may not cause, allow, or discharge any visible emission from such device during an air pollution Alert declared by the department pursuant to Rule 4.104 unless a sole source permit, a Temporary Sole Source permit, a special need permit, or an Alert permit has been issued for such device pursuant to this chapter.
- (2) Within the High Impact Zone, a person owning, operating or in control of a solid fuel burning device for which a sole source permit or special need permit has been issued may not cause, allow, or discharge any emissions from such device that are of an opacity greater than twenty (20) percent during an air pollution Alert declared by the department pursuant to Rule 4.104. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to emissions during the building of a new fire or for refueling for a period or periods aggregating no more than ten (10) minutes in any four (4) hour period.
- (3) Within the High Impact Zone, a person owning, operating, or in control of a solid fuel burning device for which an Alert class permit has been issued may not cause, allow, or discharge any emissions from such device that are of an opacity greater than ten (10) percent during an air pollution Alert declared by the department pursuant to Rule 4.104. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to emissions during the building of a new fire, or for refueling for a period or periods aggregating no more than ten (10) minutes in any four (4) hour period.
- (4) When declaring a Stage 1 Air Alert, the department shall take reasonable steps to publicize that information and to make it reasonably available to the public at least three (3) hours before initiating any enforcement action for a violation of this section.
- (5) Every person operating or in control of a solid fuel burning device within the High Impact Zone has a duty to know when an air pollution Alert has been declared by the department.

- (6) Within the High Impact Zone, a person owning, operating, or in control of a solid fuel burning device may not cause, allow, or discharge any visible emissions from such device during an air pollution Warning declared by the department pursuant to Rule 4.104 unless such device has a sole source permit or a temporary sole source permit. Within the High Impact Zone, a person owning, operating or in control of a solid fuel burning device for which a sole source permit has been issued may not cause, allow, or discharge any emissions from such device that are of an opacity greater than twenty (20) percent during an air pollution Warning declared by the department pursuant to Rule 4.104. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to emissions during the building of a new fire, for a period or periods aggregating no more than ten (10) minutes in any four (4) hour period.

Rule 9.107 - Emissions Certification

- (1) The Control Board hereby adopts the Oregon method for the sole purpose of establishing a uniform procedure to evaluate the emissions and efficiencies of woodstoves for compliance with the emission limitation imposed in Rules 9.110 and 9.111. Beginning January 1, 1988 the department shall also use the EPA method for the purpose of establishing a uniform procedure to evaluate the emissions and efficiencies of woodstoves.
- (2) Devices exempted from the definition of “woodstove” listed in the Oregon method or “wood heater” listed in the EPA method may not be issued an Alert class or Installation class emissions certification unless tested to either method using modifications in the test procedure approved by the department.
- (3) The department shall accept as evidence of compliance with the emission limitation imposed in Rules 9.110, 9.111 and 9.118, labels affixed to the stove in compliance with OAR 340-21-150, 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart AAA, Section 60.536, or documentation that, in the opinion of the department, is sufficient to substantiate that the specific model, design, and specifications of the woodstove meet standards specified in Rules 9.110, 9.111 and 9.118.

Rule 9.108 - New Solid Fuel Burning Devices Prohibited

- (1) After July 1, 1986, a person or persons may not install or use any new solid fuel burning device in any structure within the Air Stagnation Zone without an Installation permit.

Rule 9.109 - Sale of New Solid Fuel Burning Devices

- (1) In the Air Stagnation Zone, a person may not sell or offer for sale a new solid fuel burning device that cannot be legally installed within the Air Stagnation Zone without labeling as follows:
- (a) A clearly visible, legible label must be placed on each device offered for sale;
 - (b) The label must state, “It is illegal to install this device within the Air Stagnation Zone. Call the Missoula City-County Health Department (phone #) for more information”; and
 - (c) The lettering on the label must be in block letters no less than 20-point bold type, in a tone contrasting with the background.

Rule 9.110 - Installation Permits

- (1) The department may only issue installation permits for pellet stoves with emissions that do not exceed 1.0 gram per hour weighted average when tested in conformance with the EPA method.
- (2) An installation permit expires 180 days after issuance unless a final inspection is conducted or unless the department receives adequate documentation to insure the type of device, and installation are in compliance with the provisions of this Program.
- (3) New solid fuel burning devices may not be installed or used with a flue damper unless the device was so equipped when tested in accordance with Rule 9.107.

Rule 9.111 - Alert Permits

- (1) Those woodstoves that have a valid alert permit issued by the department may be operated during a Stage I Air Alert subject to the opacity limitations in Rule 9.106.
- (2) The department may issue a new alert permit for a pellet stove if the emissions do not exceed 1.0 gram per hour weighted average when tested in conformance with the EPA method.
- (3) The department may renew an alert permit for a woodstove that has emissions that do not exceed 6.0 grams per hour weighted average when tested using the Oregon method or 5.5 grams per hour weighted average when tested using the EPA method if the original application for an alert permit was received prior to June 30, 1988 and the permit has never lapsed.
- (4) The department may renew an alert permit for a woodstove that has emissions that do not exceed 4.0 grams per hour weighted average when tested using the Oregon Method or 4.1 grams per hour when tested using the EPA method if the original application for the Alert permit was received prior to October 1, 1994 and the permit has never lapsed.
- (5) Before renewing an alert permit, the department may require information to determine if the woodstove is capable of meeting emission requirements. If an inspection of the appliance during operation is not allowed by the applicant, the department shall require evidence that any non-durable parts (e.g. catalytic combustor, gaskets, by-pass mechanisms) have been replaced as necessary to meet applicable emission limitations.
- (6) To qualify for an alert permit or a renewal, catalyst-equipped woodstoves must be equipped with a permanent provision to accommodate a commercially available temperature sensor that can monitor combustor gas stream temperature within or immediately downstream (within 1.0 inch or 2.5 cm) of the combustor surface.
- (7) Alert permits is valid for two years for any woodstove that uses a catalyst or other nondurable part as an integral part, and five years for other devices.

Rule 9.112 - Sole Source Permits

- (1) A solid fuel burning device with a valid sole source permit issued by the department may be operated during Stage I Air Alerts and Stage II Warnings subject to the opacity limitations of Rule 9.106.
- (2) The department may only issue a new sole source permit for a pellet stove that:
 - (a) constitutes the sole source of heat in a private residence; and
 - (b) emits less than 1.0 gram per hour weighted average when tested using the EPA method.
- (3) The department may renew a sole source permit for a solid fuel burning device that constitutes the sole source of heat in a private residence if the solid fuel burning device is:
 - (a) a pellet stove that emits less than 1.0 gram per hour weighted average when tested using the EPA method; or
 - (b) a woodstove that has a continuously renewed sole source permit originally issued prior to July 1, 1985.
- (4) A sole source permit is not eligible for renewal when the ownership of the property is transferred from person to person.
- (5) A sole source permit is valid for one year beginning July 1st through the last day of June the following year.

Rule 9.113 - Special Need Permits

- (1) Woodstoves with a valid special need permit issued by the department may be used during an Alert subject to the opacity limitations of Rule 9.106.
- (2) A person who demonstrates an economic need to burn solid fuel for space heating purposes by qualifying for energy assistance according to economic guidelines established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget under the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (L.I.E.A.P.), as administered in Missoula County by the District XI Human Resources Development Council, is eligible for a Special Need permit.
- (3) Special need permits may be renewed providing the applicant meets the applicable need and economic guidelines at the time of application for renewal.
- (4) Special need permits are issued at no cost to the applicant.
- (5) A special need permit is valid for up to one (1) year from the date it is issued.

Rule 9.114 - Temporary Sole Source Permit

- (1) Woodstoves with a valid temporary sole source permit may be used during Stage 1 Air Alerts and Stage 2 Warnings, subject to the opacity limitations of Rule 9.106.
- (2) A person may apply for a temporary sole source permit in an emergency situation if their solid fuel burning devices do not qualify for a permit under Rule 9.111. An emergency situation includes, but is not limited to, the following situations:
 - (a) where a person demonstrates his furnace or central heating system in inoperable other than through his own actions;
 - (b) where the furnace or central heating system is involuntarily disconnected from its energy source by a utility or fuel supplier; or
 - (c) where the normal fuel or energy source is unavailable for any reason.
- (3) The department may issue a temporary permit if it finds that:
 - (a) the emissions proposed to occur do not constitute a danger to public health or safety;
 - (b) compliance with the air stagnation plan and Rule 9.106(1) would produce hardship without equal or greater benefits to the public; and
 - (c) compliance with the air stagnation plan and Rule 9.106(1) would create unreasonable economic hardship to the applicant or render the residence as equipped severely uncomfortable for human habitation, or cause damage to the building or its mechanical or plumbing systems.
- (4) The department may place conditions on a temporary permit to insure that the permittee is in compliance with the Program when the permit expires.
- (5) The department shall arrange for an applicant interview to be conducted within five (5) working days of receipt of a written request for a temporary permit and shall render its decision within ten (10) working days of receipt of the written request.
- (6) Application to and denial by the department for a temporary permit does not prevent the applicant from applying to the Control Board for a variance under the appropriate provisions of this Program.
- (7) A temporary permits issued pursuant to this section is valid for a period determined by the department, but may not exceed one (1) year and is not renewable.

Rule 9.115 - Permit Application Requirements

- (1) The department shall issue a permit pursuant to the regulations of this chapter when the applicant has submitted information, on forms supplied by the department, that indicates compliance with this chapter, local building codes, and other applicable provisions of this Program.
- (2) The department shall decide whether to issue a permit or permit renewal within ten (10) working days after receiving an application.

Rule 9.116 – Revocation or Modification of Permit

- (1) A permit issued under this chapter may be revoked for a violation of:
 - (a) A condition of the permit;
 - (b) A provision of this Program;
 - (c) An applicable regulation, rule or standard adopted pursuant to the FCAA; or
 - (d) A provision of the Clean Air Act of Montana.
- (2) A permit issued under this chapter may be modified for the following reasons:
 - (a) Changes in an applicable provision of this Program adopted by the Control Board, or rules adopted under the Clean Air Act of Montana;
 - (b) When the department or Control Board determines modifications are necessary to insure compliance with the provisions of this Program or an implementation plan approved by the Control Board.
- (2) The department shall notify the permittee in writing of its intent to revoke or modify the permit. The department’s decision to revoke or modify a permit becomes final unless the permittee requests, in writing, an administrative review within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the department’s notice. Departmental receipt of a written request for a review initiates the department’s appeal process outlined in Chapter 14 of this Program and postpones the effective date of the of the department’s decision until the conclusion of the administrative appeals process.

Rule 9.117 - Transfer of Permit

- (1) A permit issued under this chapter may not be transferred from one location to another or from one solid fuel burning device to another. A permit may not be transferred from one person to another, unless re-issued by the department.

Rule 9.118 - Removal of Solid Fuel Burning Devices Upon Sale of the Property.

- (1) After October 1, 1994, in the Air Stagnation Zone, all solid fuel burning devices contained on property to be sold must be removed from the property or rendered permanently inoperable unless they meet the emissions requirements listed in Section (2) of this rule.
- (2) The following solid fuel burning devices may remain on a property in the Air Stagnation Zone to be sold:
 - (a) Woodstoves if the emissions do not exceed:
 - (i) 6.0 grams per hour weighted average when tested in conformance with the Oregon Method; or
 - (ii) 5.5 grams per hour weighted average when tested in conformance with the EPA Method.
 - (b) Commercially manufactured pellet stoves that have not been tested, but were installed prior to October 1, 1994.
 - (c) Fireplaces meeting the definition of Rule 9.101(6).

- (d) Wood-fired, forced-air combustion furnaces that primarily heat living space, through indirect heat transfer using forced air duct work or pressurized water systems.
- (3) Within the Air Stagnation Zone, it is unlawful for any person to complete, or allow the completion of the sale, transfer or conveyance of any real property unless a Certificate of Compliance is filed with the Missoula County Clerk and Records Office.
- (4) (a) Until July 1, 2001, a Certificate of Compliance is valid until the real property is transferred or conveyed to a new owner. At that time, another Certificate must be filed.

(b) After July 1, 2001, once a Certificate of Compliance has been filed for a property, another certificate is not needed if the number and type of stoves on the real property matches what is on file at the department. The department shall list properties with Certificates of Compliance on the internet. A copy of the list must be available at the department for inspection.
- (5) The Certificate of Compliance must state that either:
 - (a) there are no solid fuel burning devices on the property; or
 - (b) any solid fuel burning devices on the property meet the requirements of Section (2) above.
- (6) The Certificate of Compliance must be in a format specified by the department and must be signed by the seller(s), the buyer(s), the real estate agent(s) of the seller(s), and if any stoves are staying on the property, a certified inspector.
- (7) City Building Department inspectors and persons certified by the department to inspect and certify that solid fuel burning devices on the real property meet the emissions limitations described by these regulations shall sign and submit a Certificate of Compliance to the Missoula County Clerk and Records Office.
- (8) The Certificate of Compliance does not constitute a warranty or guarantee by the department or certified inspectors that the Solid Fuel Burning Device on the property meets any other standards of operation, efficiency or safety, except the emission standards contained in these regulations.

Rule 9.119 - Contingency Measures

- (1) Rule 9.106(1) and 9.106(2) are modified to delete Alert class permitted devices, and Rules 9.106(3) and 9.111(1) are void. (See Chapter 3.)
- (2) All portions of this chapter that allow Alert permits to burn during alerts or warnings are hereby rescinded.