

CLARIFICATION OF PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR COFFEE ROASTING OPERATIONS

Equipment Applicability

This advisory contains clarifications of the permit requirements for coffee roasting operations within the Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties.

Permit Requirements

Consistent with Rule 201, Low Emitting Unit Exemption, coffee roasters with a roasting capacity of less than or equal to 5 pounds of beans per batch are exempt from permit requirements. Accordingly, any coffee roaster with a roasting capacity of greater than 5 pounds of beans per batch requires a District permit.

Background

Coffee roasting operations are likely to be a source of nuisance odors and may have excess visible emissions. The normal method of controlling these emissions is the use of a properly designed afterburner. However, due to the numerous variables, such as the darkness of roast, and location of roaster, that can affect coffee roasting emissions and its emissions impact, there may be cases where small roasters can be permitted without afterburners or equivalent controls.

Requirements for Coffee Roaster Controls

An afterburner is required for any coffee roaster that is substantiated to be the source of public nuisance complaints.

An afterburner is required for any coffee roaster that cannot comply with Rule 400 visible emissions standards.

Afterburner requirements for coffee roasters with capacities of less than 25 pounds/batch will be made on a case-by-case basis by examining the potential for public nuisance odors and visible emissions that exceed Rule 400 standards. In general, any coffee roaster that is located with nearby commercial or residential receptors will be required to be equipped with an afterburner.

For coffee roasters with a capacity of 25 pounds/batch or greater but less than 35 pounds/batch, an afterburner will be required because units of this capacity can exceed Rule 400 visible emission standards and are likely to be a source of public nuisance odors. Coffee roasters with a capacity of 25 to less than 35 pounds/batch without afterburners may be allowed provided:

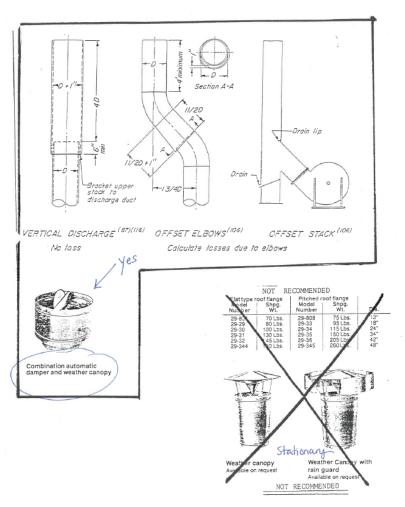
- a) The applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the District that the roaster is not expected to be the source of public nuisance odors or exceed Rule 400 visible emission standards, and
- b) The applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the District that the roaster can be retrofit with an afterburner should the operation become a source of public nuisance odors or exceed Rule 400 visible emission standards.

Approval of such roasters may require operational restrictions such as limits on the number and type of roasts that can be conducted.

For any coffee roaster with a capacity of 35 pounds/batch or greater an afterburner is required.

Other Considerations

A coffee roaster that is located near residential and sensitive receptors may be required to be equipped with a stack having a non-stationary cap such as shown below with an automatic damper. This additional requirement may be based upon a review of toxics emissions per Rule 1000 or public nuisance complaints.



Additional Information

Should you have any questions regarding the permit applicability for your coffee roaster, please contact the District's Engineering Division at (831) 647-9411. The Engineering Division can also provide you with permit application forms and permit application fee sheets to commence the permitting process for your proposed facility.

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