

ISSUE BRIEF | Proposed Los Angeles-area regulation to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions could impact fuel-burning appliances

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What change(s) are being proposed?

The Orange County, Calif.-based South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has completed its [2016 Air Quality Management Plan](#) – a regional blueprint for achieving federal air quality standards primarily through reductions in nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions across the greater Los Angeles area.

The plan must now be approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for inclusion in its State Implementation Plan, which, in turn, will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval. The SCAQMD plan calls for a 17 percent reduction in NOx emissions by 2022; a 43 percent reduction by 2023; and a 55 percent reduction by 2031. Among the reduction standards to be created to comply with the plan are those for measuring and reducing NOx emissions from charbroilers and other appliances with burners used in commercial foodservice equipment. Until now, there have been no standards for regulating NOx emissions from these types of appliances.

Is this a Federal, State or Local issue?

This is an Orange County, Calif., issue, but SCAQMD's plan is closely aligned with the State of California's efforts to reduce emissions. This is important, because actions taken in California are often a precursor to similar actions by other states and the federal government.

What organization is considering implementing the change(s)?

SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County, Calif., and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. This area is home to more than 16.8 million people – the second-most populated urban area in the United States and one of the smoggiest. Because the area's smog problem is so severe, SCAQMD often finds itself at the forefront of the nation's emission reduction efforts.

How will this proposed change impact my business?

While many recent environmental initiatives have focused on the industry's cold side, this initiative draws focus on the hot side – an area that is attracting increasing attention on the regulatory front.

SCAQMD's actions could result in required changes to charbroilers and other appliances with burners used in commercial cooking in Orange County, Calif. The standards could impact various aspects of new burner technology, including energy efficiency, energy consumption and food safety. Of course, required changes to product specifications also could have potential unintended negative business consequences.

What is NAFEM doing to address this issue?

NAFEM has had an ongoing dialogue with SCAQMD throughout the four years it took to develop the plan. We are pleased that the agency demonstrated interest in developing collaborative solutions and NAFEM will continue to be actively involved on behalf of our members as new standards are developed.

What should my company be doing to address this issue?

Members in California, and those selling products in the state, should closely monitor SCAQMD's work. We may ask member companies to join NAFEM's continuing conversation with the agency, so

being ready to share details about the impact a potential approach on your company will be important. Also, regularly visit the Advocacy section of www.NAFEM.org to learn more as this process continues.

Who should I contact with questions?

NAFEM will continue to keep its members apprised of this issue through NAFEM Online and other communication. For questions on this topic, please contact Charlie Souhrada, CFSP, NAFEM vice president, regulatory & technical affairs: csouhrada@nafem.org or 312.821.0201.