



### Wood-Burning Device Regulations

Handout No: 21  
Updated: 1/12/17

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) regulates the installation, remodel and replacement of wood-burning devices (i.e. wood heaters, fireplaces, etc.) in Sonoma.

**Requirements for New Building Construction<sup>1</sup>:** Effective November 1, 2016, no person or builder shall install a new or used wood-burning device<sup>2</sup> in a new building construction (single or multi-family unit). [BAAQMD regulation 6, Rule 3, Section 6-3-306]

**Requirements for Remodeling or Replacement of a Fireplace or Chimney:** Effective November 1, 2016, no person shall remodel<sup>3</sup> or replace a fireplace or chimney unless a gas-fueled, electric, or [EPA certified device](#) is installed that meets requirements in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60, Subpart AAA<sup>4</sup>. This requirement is triggered by a fireplace or chimney remodel where a total cost exceeds \$15,000 and requires a local building permit. The total cost excludes the cost of a building permit. [BAAQMD regulation 6, Rule 3, Section 6-3-307]



#### EXEMPTIONS:

- These requirements do not apply to wood-burning devices installed outdoors for outdoor use. [See the definition for “wood burning device”.]
- These requirements do not apply to the repair of a wood-burning device located within a qualified historic structure or property. Repairs to any portion of a qualified historical building or property may be made in-kind with historical materials and the use of original or existing historical methods of construction, subject to conditions of the *California Historical Building Code (CHBC)*. [CHBC 8-105]
- It is a wood-burning appliance specifically designed for cooking only. [See the definition for “wood burning device”.]

**NOTE:** Unless otherwise exempted by BAAQMD regulations, it is illegal to burn wood, pellets, or manufactured fire logs when a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is issued by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

---

<sup>1</sup> **New building construction** is any single or multi-family housing unit, for which construction began on or after November 1 2016.

<sup>2</sup> A **wood-burning device** is any wood heater, fireplace, or any indoor permanently installed device used to burn any solid fuel for space-heating or aesthetic purposes.

<sup>3</sup> **Remodel** means a change to the appearance and/or functional utility of an existing fireplace or chimney that requires a building permit.

<sup>4</sup> Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60, Subpart AAA, requires:

- a. Effective May 15, 2015, any wood heater that is manufactured must be certified to meet the 4.5 g/hr emissions rating specified in 40 C.F.R. § 60.532(a).
- b. Effective December 31, 2015, any wood heater that is sold at retail must be certified to meet the emissions rating of 4.5 g/hr as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 60.532(a).
- c. Effective May 15, 2020, any wood heater that is manufactured or sold at retail must meet an emissions rating of 2.5 g/hr if crib tested, or 2.0 g/hr if cordwood tested, as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 60.532(b) and (c).