

Glossary

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AB 1807 (Tanner)

A California state law (Health and Safety Code section 39650 et seq.) that became effective in January of 1984 and established the framework for California's toxic air contaminant identification and control program. For more information, please see our toxics summary.

AB 2588 (Connelly) Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Program

A California program (Health and Safety Code Section 44300 et seq.) that requires certain stationary sources to report the type and quantity of specific toxic substances that routinely release into the air. The program identifies high priority facilities and requires facilities posing significant risks to notify all exposed individuals. For more information, visit our AB 2588 website.



AB 2766 (Sher) Motor Vehicle Fee Program

A program that permits air districts and local governments to allocate vehicle registration surcharge fees to projects that reduce motor vehicle emissions such as zero-emission vehicles, bike lanes and trip reduction programs.

AB 32 (The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006)

The Legislature passed and Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 32, which set the 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal into law. It directed ARB to develop discrete early actions to reduce greenhouse gases while also preparing a scoping plan to identify how best to reach the 2020 limit on greenhouse gas emissions.

AB 998

Assembly Bill 998 established the Non-Toxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Program to provide the dry cleaning industry with \$10,000 grant funds to switch from systems using perchloroethylene (Perc), an identified toxic air contaminant and potential human carcinogen, to non-toxic and non-smog forming alternatives. The legislation also requires ARB to establish a demonstration program to showcase these non-toxic and non-smog forming technologies.

Abatement

The reduction or elimination of pollution.



Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI)

The highest daily amount of a substance that may be consumed over a lifetime without adverse effects.

Acronyms: ADI

Acid Deposition

A comprehensive term for the various ways acidic compounds precipitate from the atmosphere and deposit onto surfaces. It can include: 1) wet deposition by means of acid rain, fog and snow; and, 2) dry deposition of acidic particles (aerosols).

Acid Rain

Rain that is especially acidic (pH is less than 5.2). Principal components of acid rain typically include nitric and sulfuric acid. These may be formed by the combination of nitrogen and sulfur oxides with water vapor in the atmosphere.

Acronyms

CARB uses many acronyms and we hope this list of acronyms will be of assistance.

Acute Exposure

One or a series of short-term exposures generally lasting less than 24 hours.

Acute Health Effect

A health effect that occurs over a relatively short period of time (e.g., minutes or hours). The term is used to describe brief exposures and effects which appear promptly after exposure.



Add-On Control Device

An air pollution control device such as carbon adsorber or incinerator that reduces the pollution in exhaust gas. The control device usually does not affect the process being controlled and thus is "add-on" technology, as opposed to a scheme to control pollution through altering the basic process itself. See also pollution prevention.

Adsorber

An emissions control device that removes VOCs from a gas stream as a result of the gas attaching (adsorbing) onto a solid matrix such as activated carbon.

Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emission Vehicle (AT PZEV)

A vehicle that meets the Partial Zero Emission Vehicle (PZEV) standard and includes zero emission vehicle enabling technologies.

Acronyms: AT PZEV

Adverse Health Effect

A health effect from exposure to air contaminants that may range from relatively mild temporary conditions, such as eye or throat irritation, shortness of breath, or headaches, to permanent and serious conditions, such as birth defects, cancer or damage to lungs, nerves, liver, heart, or other organs.

Aerosol

Particles of solid or liquid matter that can remain suspended in air from a few minutes to many months depending on the particle size and weight.



Afforestation

The planting of new forests on lands where the preceding vegetation or land did not contain forests.

Afterburner

An air pollution abatement device that removes undesirable organic gases through incineration.

Agricultural Burning

The intentional use of fire for vegetation management in areas such as agricultural fields, orchards, rangelands and forests. The regulation is described in the Agricultural Burning Guidelines, Title 17, California Code of Regulations. For more information, see our smoke management program website.

Air

So-called "pure" air is a mixture of gases containing about 78 percent nitrogen; 21 percent oxygen; less than 1 percent of carbon dioxide, argon and other gases; and, varying amounts of water vapor. See also ambient air.

Air Basin



A land area with generally similar meteorological and geographic conditions throughout. To the extent possible, air basin boundaries are defined along political boundary lines and include both the source and receptor areas. California is currently divided into 15 air basins.

Air District

A political body responsible for managing air quality on a regional or county basis. California is currently divided into 35 air districts. (See also air pollution control district and air quality management district). For more information, see our local air district directory.

Air Monitoring

Sampling for and measuring of pollutants present in the atmosphere.

Air Pollutants

Amounts of foreign and/or natural substances occurring in the atmosphere that may result in adverse effects to humans, animals, vegetation and/or materials. (See also air pollution.)

Air Pollution

Degradation of air quality resulting from unwanted chemicals or other materials occurring in the air. (See also air pollutants.)

Air Pollution Control District (APCD)

A county agency with authority to regulate stationary, indirect and area sources of air pollution (e.g., power plants, highway construction and housing developments) within a given county and governed by a district air pollution control board composed of the elected county supervisors. (See also air quality management district or Air pollution control district).



Air Quality Index (AQI)

A numerical index used for reporting severity of air pollution levels to the public. It replaces the formerly used Pollutant Standards Index (PSI). Like the PSI, the AQI incorporates five criteria pollutants -- ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide -- into a single index. The new index also incorporates the 8-hour ozone standard and the 24-hour PM2.5 standard into the index calculation. AQI levels

range from 0 (Good air quality) to 500 (Hazardous air quality). The higher the index, the higher the level of pollutants and the greater the likelihood of health effects. The AQI incorporates an additional index category -- unhealthy for sensitive groups -- that ranges from 101 to 150. In addition, the AQI comes with more detailed cautions. For more information, see our air quality index page.

Air Quality Management District (AQMD)

A group of counties or portions of counties, or an individual county specified in law with authority to regulate stationary, indirect and area sources of air pollution within the region and governed by a regional air pollution control board comprised mostly of elected officials from within the region. (See also air pollution control district). For more information, please see our local air district directory.

Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)

A plan prepared by an APCD/AQMD, for a county or region designated as a non-attainment area, for the purpose of bringing the area into compliance with the requirements of the national and/or California ambient air quality standards. AQMPs are incorporated into the State Implementation Plan (SIP).



(800) 242-4450 | helpline@arb.ca.gov
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812



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