



Air Emissions Regulations

Yukoners breathe clean air most – but not all - of the time. Even a place as relatively pristine as the Yukon still has some problems with contaminated air.

Poor air quality can harm people's health. Children and people with respiratory problems are particularly at risk.

Smoke from wood stoves, vehicle emissions from idling cars, and diesel electric generators all pollute the air. Burning garbage also contributes to the problem, as does industrial activity.

The Law

When Yukoners raised concerns about activities that pollute the air, Air Emissions Regulations were drafted under Yukon's *Environment Act* to address specific problems.

The regulations are intended to protect both human health and the environment from harmful air pollutants. They also help efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change in the world.

The regulations do not address wood smoke or vehicle idling. Public education is used to show people how they can help cut down on the amount of pollution from these sources.

The regulations:

- control harmful air pollutants from industrial sources such as diesel electric generators, heaters, and boilers;
- reduce air pollution resulting from open burning of garbage, plastics, and other noxious materials;
- control the use of high-sulphur fuels that cause acid rain;
- prohibit any alteration of a vehicle's air emissions control system, such as a catalytic converter or air pump; and
- limit smoke opacity (how black or thick smoke is allowed to be) from air emission sources.

Permits

You must obtain an Air Emissions Permit for:

- asphalt manufacturing;
- production and exploration of oil and natural gas;
- quarries larger than 4 hectares;
- processing or handling of coal at a rate greater than 5 MBTU/ hour;
- facilities with equipment burning or using 5 MBTU/hour or greater;
- burning of more than 5 kg per day of garbage (open burning or in an incinerator);
- incineration of special (hazardous) waste or contaminated soil;
- electricity generating facilities with a capacity of 1.0 Megavolt ampere or greater; and
- using a fuel with a sulphur content higher than 1. 1% for heating, electricity generation or other combustion in an industrial process.

For more information on the Air Emissions Regulations, please contact:

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Copies of Yukon regulations may be viewed online at <http://environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/> under the "Standards & Approvals" section, or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, or by mail from the Subscriptions Clerk, Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone (867) 667-5783 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 extension 5783).



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