



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 102 – DEFINITION OF TERMS

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the Lead Agency and will prepare a Notice of Exemption for the project identified above.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) excluded trans-1-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoropropene, also known as HFO-1233zd, from the federal volatile organic compound (VOC) definition on the basis that the compound has a negligible contribution to tropospheric ozone formation. The U.S. EPA's final ruling, delisting HFO-1233zd as a VOC, became effective on September 27, 2013. HFO-1233zd is non-flammable and is low in toxicity based on toxicological studies conducted on the compound. It is not listed as a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act. Further, HFO-1233zd has other desirable environmental properties, specifically, a negligible ozone depleting potential (ODP) and a very low global warming potential (GWP) value.

Based on staff's review of relevant data pertaining to this compound, the SCAQMD is now proposing to add HFO-1233zd to the list of compounds exempt from the definition of VOC in Rule 102's Group I compounds. Evaluation of the proposed project resulted in the conclusion that it will not create any adverse effects on air quality, toxics, hazards or any other environmental areas. Since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – Review for Exemption. Upon adoption, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Any questions regarding this Notice of Exemption should be sent to Jeff Inabinet (c/o Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources) at the above address. Mr. Inabinet can also be reached at (909) 396-2453.

Date: May 2, 2014

Signature: 

Michael Krause
Program Supervisor – CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development &
Area Sources

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino	From: South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
--	---

Project Title:

Proposed Amended Rule 102 – Definition of Terms

Project Location:

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) area of jurisdiction consisting of the four-county South Coast Air Basin (Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The U.S. EPA excluded trans-1-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoropropene, also known as HFO-1233zd, from the federal volatile organic compound (VOC) definition on the basis that the compound has a negligible contribution to tropospheric ozone formation. The U.S. EPA's final ruling, delisting HFO-1233zd as a VOC, became effective on September 27, 2013. HFO-1233zd is non-flammable and is low in toxicity based on toxicological studies conducted on the compound. It is not listed as a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act. Further, HFO-1233zd has other desirable environmental properties, specifically, a negligible ozone depleting potential (ODP) and a very low global warming potential (GWP) value. Based on staff's review of relevant data pertaining to this compound, the SCAQMD is now proposing to add HFO-1233zd to the list of compounds exempt from the definition of VOC in Rule 102's Group I compounds. HFO-1233zd is expected to be used as a compliant substitute solvent for HCFC-225 in vapor degreasing operations for precision cleaning of critical parts used in aerospace and military applications. However, due to its favorable solvency properties, HFO-1233zd has a wide range of applications and can also be used as a blowing agent for closed cell insulating foams; as a solvent in aerosol products for electronics cleaning; and as a refrigerant in chillers. The proposed amended rule is not anticipated to result in additional emission reductions, considering the primary use will be to replace another exempt solvent that will be phased out by the end of 2014.

Public Agency Approving Project:

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Agency Carrying Out Project:

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status:

General Concepts [CEQA Guidelines §15002 (k)(1)]; and
General Rule Exemption [CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(3)]

Reasons why project is exempt:

The SCAQMD has reviewed the proposed amendments to Rule 102 pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15002(k)(1) – Three Step Process, and CEQA Guidelines §15061 – Review for Exemption, and has determined that the proposed amendments are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(3) (“General Rule Exemption”). Evaluation of the proposed project resulted in the conclusion that it will not create any adverse effects on air quality, toxics, hazards or any other environmental areas. The proposed project may produce beneficial effects by reducing VOC emissions. The proposed project may also reduce potential hazard impacts at facilities that replace currently used organic compounds with HFO-1233zd. Since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – Review for Exemption.

Project Approval Date:

SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: May 2, 2014, 9:00 a.m.; SCAQMD Headquarters

CEQA Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Email:
Mr. Jeffrey Inabinet	(909) 396-2453	(909) 396-3324	<jinabinet@aqmd.gov>
Rule Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Email:
Mr. Rizaldy Calungcagin	(909) 396-2315	(909) 396-2414	<rcalungcagin@aqmd.gov>

Date Received for Filing _____

Signature _____



Michael Krause
Program Supervisor – CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development
and Area Sources