



South Coast Air Quality Management District

PERMITTING ADVISORY

**ATTENTION: Owners and Operators of
Methyl Bromide Fumigation Facilities**

July 30, 2026
Advisory No. 2026-1

New Requirements for South Coast AQMD Methyl Bromide Permits in Los Angeles County

Background

South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality in large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. This advisory applies to owners and operators of methyl bromide fumigation facilities in Los Angeles County that do not currently hold a South Coast AQMD permit. No action is needed for facilities that already have an active Title V permit.

California law authorizes the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the Department of Food and Agriculture to regulate the use of pesticides in fumigation. The County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) serve as the local permitting authority for these fumigation activities. However, the air pollution control districts have the authority to regulate emissions of toxic pollutants from fumigation facilities. *Harbor Fumigation, Inc., v. County of San Diego Air Pollution Control Dist.*, (43 Cal. App. 4th 854, 1996) In 1996, to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and facilitate compliance with environmental quality laws, the local CAC, overseen by the DPR, and South Coast AQMD established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Under this MOU, the CAC was designated as the lead agency for purposes of the Environmental Permit Reform Act of 1993 (Public Resources Code Sections 71000 et seq.).

On May 12, 2026, the MOU between the Los Angeles CAC and South Coast AQMD was revised. As a result, the CAC is no longer designated as the consolidated permit agency pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 71020. Facilities using methyl bromide to fumigate agricultural commodities must now obtain a separate permit from South Coast AQMD. Permit application information and the associated required timelines are listed below:

Permit Application Guidelines

Deadline: October 28, 2026

Operators conducting methyl bromide fumigation operations in Los Angeles County without a South Coast AQMD permit must submit a complete permit application by September 28, 2026 as required by the MOU in order to ensure adequate time for permitting staff to issue permits prior to expiration of their current CAC permit. The application will be used to establish the facility's

baseline methyl bromide use. Failure to submit a complete application may trigger additional requirements and subject the facility to enforcement action. A complete permit application for methyl bromide fumigation must include the following supplemental forms and appropriate fees.

Note that facilities are also required to immediately submit any other applicable permit applications to South Coast AQMD for existing/new equipment not addressed in this MOU (examples include, but are not limited, to engines or process heaters).

Forms and Information

1. [400-A](#) (Application Form for Permit or Plan Approval)
2. [400-CEQA](#) (California Environmental Quality Act Applicability)
3. [400-PS](#) (Plot Plan and Stack Information)
 - a. Must attach site plans/drawings
4. [400-E-GI](#) (General Information Summary)
 - a. Must provide methyl bromide usage records for the past 5 years.
 - b. Must include any prior permits with the CAC.
5. Current CAC permit

Completed applications, including all required supplemental forms and permit processing fees may be:

- Mailed to:
21865 Copley Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
ATTN: Permit Services
- Emailed to: permitservicesonline@aqmd.gov
Applications submitted by email must include a copy of the payment confirmation receipt (see below).

Permit Processing Fees

Pursuant to South Coast AQMD Rule 301, the current application fee for fumigation is \$2,562.63 per permit unit. A permit unit is the equipment or grouping of equipment functioning as a whole.

To pay the application fee online, visit [Online Fee Payments](#) and select [Permit Application Processing Fee Portal](#).

Approved permits will also be subject to an annual renewal fee, which will be billed separately.

Reasons for Rejection of Permit Application

An application will be rejected for any of the following reasons:

- Forms 400-A or 400-CEQA are not signed by the owner/operator (Consultant or other “authorized” party cannot sign for owner/operator unless notarized service agreement is included with the application package.)
- Required fees are not paid or proof of payment is not provided.

- Sufficient information is not provided by the owner/operator or authorized representative to evaluate the permit application.

Permit Application Processing Timelines

Although most permit applications are generally processed well before the Rule 210 regulatory timeline of 180 days, there are factors which may cause the need for additional processing time, such as:

- Failure to provide requested additional information in a timely manner.
- Unexpected changes to permitted methyl bromide throughput.
- Potential Rule 212 Public Notification.

Additional Helpful Information Regarding Permit Applications

- Owner/operator may voluntarily request express permit processing by submitting [Form 400-XPP](#) (Express Permit Processing Request) and paying for such processing at time of application submittal. Note that express permit processing:
 - neither guarantees action by any specific date nor guarantees permit approval
 - is subject to availability of qualified staff; and
 - requires expedited fees and, once commenced, such fees will not be refunded.
- Owner/operator may authorize a third party to represent them via signed cover letter identifying the authorized party and their email address. Note that owner/operator nonetheless must sign Forms 400-A and 400-CEQA. In addition, it is recommended that the owner/operator remain fully engaged during the entire permitting process.
- To track application progress, visit South Coast AQMD's [F.I.N.D.](#) page and search by Facility ID or application number. Your permit application will be assigned to an Air Quality Engineer for processing.
- Failure of owner/operator to promptly provide additional information will cause delays in permit processing and may result in permit denial.
- Methyl bromide fumigation facilities without permits in other counties in South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction should submit permit applications as soon as possible.

For questions on this advisory or permit application requirements, please contact Chelsie Ceballos, Senior Air Quality Engineer, at 909-396-3502 or cceballos@aqmd.gov.

This Permitting Advisory is located on South Coast AQMD website at www.aqmd.gov/home/permits/permitting-advisories.