



February 2000

Facts About Boilers

Q ————— [Do I need an air pollution control permit for my boiler\(s\)?](#)

A You need an air pollution control permit if:

- A boiler has a firing rate of 10 mmBtu/hr or above. A permit is needed for boilers that have a capacity equal to and above 10 mmBtu/hr. The boiler will be subject to New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) if it was built or modified after June 9, 1989. If the heating unit was modified after June 9, 1989, and has a heat input capacity of 10 mm Btu/hr or above, then a permit will be required.
- A company has more than one heating unit/boiler under the 10 mmBtu/hr limit that produces combined emission levels that trigger other state and federal requirements and require a permit. For example, a company that has 10 natural gas-fired boilers rated at 9.0 mmBtu/hr will have a potential emission (based on 8760 hours of operation per year) of over 40 tons/yr of nitrogen oxides. If this company was a large source of nitrogen oxides (i.e., had more than 100 tons of nitrogen oxide emissions), then the emissions from the 10 boilers would need to be permitted. Please contact the Air Permit Section at 217-782-2113 for further assistance.

Q ————— [Under what conditions would boilers not need a permit?](#)

A You do **not** need an air pollution control permit if:

- A boiler has a capacity less than 10 mmBtu/hr firing rate. A permit is not required for each fuel-burning emission unit for direct systems used for comfort heating purposes and indirect heating systems with a design heat input capacity of less than 10 mmBtu/hr.

[NOTE: Past exemption levels were much lower and boilers with 1 mmBtu/hr firing rates were required to be permitted. If you currently have a boiler of less than 10 mmBtu/hr included in your permit, you should notify Illinois EPA that you would like to withdraw or modify your permit for that source (boiler). This may reduce or eliminate your site fees and reporting requirements.]

- Residential and commercial (not industrial) establishments using gas and/or fuel oil exclusively for indirect systems and for heating and reheating furnace systems with a design heat capacity of less than 50 mmBtu/hr that were constructed, reconstructed or modified before June 9, 1989, do not require a permit.

Q ————— [Are there any additional requirements for permitted boilers?](#)

A The following are required for permitted boilers:

- Records are kept on site for the most recent three years and contain the following:
 - fuel usage
 - hours of operation
 - sulfur content of fuel (if oil is used)
- An Annual Emissions Report is required to be filed by May 1 of each year.
- An Annual Site Fee must be paid to the Illinois EPA based on the total amount of emissions at the site.

Q ————— [What should I know about asbestos?](#)

A Boilers and associated piping often contain asbestos in the thermal insulation. Prior to disturbing any suspect material, contractors or owners are required to have the material inspected for asbestos. If asbestos is disturbed, certain Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois EPA regulations are triggered. For additional information regarding asbestos license issues, call Kent Cook at IDPH at 217-782-3517. For general asbestos information or for notification forms, call Dale Halford, Illinois EPA, at 217-785-2011. For OSHA questions, call 312-353-2220.

Q ————— [Which forms do I need to submit in order to get an air pollution control permit?](#)

A The following forms are needed to apply for a state construction and/or operating permit for a boiler or other fuel combustion emission source. The designation number is on the bottom, left-hand corner of the form:

APC-201 - General Instructions for Permit Applications

APC-200 - Application for a Permit

APC-240 - Data and Information for Fuel Combustion Emission Source

APC-260 - Data and Information for Air Pollution Control Equipment (use only if control equipment will be connected to the fuel combustion emission source)

The forms can be obtained from the Illinois EPA Permit Section by calling 217-782-2113 or these forms are available on the Internet at:

www.commerce.state.il.us/doingbusiness/Reg_Env/EnvHome.htm

? [For small business assistance contact:](#)

Illinois EPA Office of Small Business
1021 N. Grand Ave. East, Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
888-372-1996 (toll-free)

Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 E. Adams
Springfield, IL 62701
Small Business Environmental Assistance Helpline
800-252-3998

[For more information about this or other fact sheets contact:](#)

Illinois EPA, Bureau of Air
1021 N. Grand Ave. East, Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
217-782-6936

Hearing impaired: 217-782-9143.