

Air Quality Update

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August 28, 2026 – Bay Area Air District ACF REGULATION UPDATE

Following the 2025 amendments to California's Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation, applicability is now limited to State and Local Government Agency (SLGA) fleets, after the California Air Resources Board (CARB) repealed provisions affecting private and federal fleets. Although private fleets are no longer directly subject to ACF compliance requirements, CARB has indicated that obligations may still arise when private fleets are contracted by or leased to State and local governments due to CARB's proposed interpretation of "hiring compliant fleets." CARB has received numerous comments regarding this interpretation, since it would effectively require private fleets performing public contract work to comply with ACF-related vehicle turnover requirements. Nevertheless, ACF applicability is limited to SLGA fleets.

For SLGA fleets, the core framework remains unchanged. Agencies that own, lease, or operate medium- and heavy-duty vehicles must continue transitioning to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) through established compliance pathways. In April 2026, CARB delayed several key milestones, including extending the 50% ZEV purchase requirement and moving the 100% ZEV purchase target to 2030. CARB also provided additional flexibility for waste and wastewater fleets using the ZEV Milestone Option for compliance. No new Board hearings have been scheduled for these revisions, and CARB has not yet finalized whether the changes are "substantial" enough to require readoption.

CARB GHG CAP-AND-INVEST

CARB approved amendments to the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mandatory Reporting Regulation (MRR) and Cap-and-Invest Regulation on May 29, 2026. The regulations apply to large combustion facilities; fuel, natural gas, and carbon dioxide (CO₂) suppliers; and electricity importers. New entities under the amended regulations include cement importers and hydrogen producers and importers. The applicability threshold for the MRR is 10,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) emitted, while the threshold for Cap-and-Invest is 25,000 MTCO_{2e} of covered emissions. The amendments primarily affect the implementation of the Cap-and-Invest Program and include lower statewide allowance budgets, changes to compliance periods, increased industry allowances with updated cap factors, allowances for electricity purchases, and decarbonization incentives. These changes will significantly affect compliance planning and programs that rely on proceeds from CARB allowance auctions.

SB 253, CLIMATE CORPORATE DATA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Senate Bill (SB) 253 requires companies with annual revenues exceeding \$1 billion that do business in California to publicly disclose their GHG emissions. CARB's first SB 253 regulation is anticipated to be approved in Fall 2026 with a focus on applicability criteria, initial reporting requirements, and fee collection requirements. Based on recent guidance posted by CARB, Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions reporting is anticipated to be due November 10, 2026.

CARB will amend this regulation to incorporate future requirements under

SB 253, including Scope 3 reporting and assurance verification, both required next year.

Air Quality Tip

Reminder: Pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40 Part 84.108, owners and operators of existing refrigeration systems with a full charge of 1,500 pounds or more and a refrigerant global warming potential (GWP) greater than 53 must install automatic leak detection systems by January 1, 2027.

Upcoming Online EH&S Training Offered by Yorke Engineering

- Northern California Air Quality Regulations, Permitting, and Compliance Seminar (3-Hour Sessions):
November 3, 4, 10, 11, and 12, 2026
- California Multi-Media Environmental Regulations: Permitting, Compliance, and Reporting Seminar (4-Hour Sessions):
October 6, 8, 13, and 15, 2026
- California Industrial Hygiene and OSHA Safety Regulations Seminar (4-Hour Sessions):
October 20, 21, 27, and 28, 2026
Class Info at: <https://yorkeengr.com/classes>

Upcoming Due Dates for 2026/2027*

- CARB LCFS Verification Statement.. 8/31/26
- Bay Area Regulation 11, Rule 6
Semiannual Report for Vinyl
Chloride & Benzene 9/15/26
- CARB LCFS Q2 Fuel Report..... 9/30/26
- CARB GHG Cap-and-Invest
Annual Compliance Surrender 11/1/26
- CARB SB 253 Scope 1 & 2 Report... 11/10/26
- CARB LCFS Q3 Fuel Report..... 12/31/26
- CARB Off-Road Diesel Compliance by
Fleet Average or BACT (All Fleets).. 1/1/27
- CARB On-Road TRUCRS
Reporting for Flexibility Options ... 1/31/27
- Semi-Annual Title V Report... Semi-Annually
- Annual Title V Compliance Cert. .. Annually
- Title V – Application for Permit Renewal –
Due 180 Days Prior to Permit Expiration

**Due dates listed are statutory dates; sometimes dates are extended when on a weekend/holiday.*

BAY AREA AIR DISTRICT REGULATION 11, RULE 18: 2026 AMENDMENTS TO REDUCE HEALTH RISKS FROM AIR TOXICS

The Bay Area Air District's (Air District's) Regulation 11, Rule 18, adopted in 2017, regulates toxics emissions from existing facilities to prevent unacceptable health risks to nearby communities. On June 3, 2026, the Air District approved amendments to improve implementation and accelerate risk reduction, building on draft updates released in 2025. Under the amendments, facilities subject to Rule 11-18 will be responsible for preparing Health Risk Assessments (HRAs) and, where required, Risk Reduction Plans (RRPs) consistent with Air District-approved procedures and oversight.

Purpose and Scope of Rule 11-18

Rule 11-18 targets Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs), specific pollutants known to increase the likelihood of cancer, cause serious illness, or present chronic health hazards, as listed in Regulation 2, Rule 5. Approximately 200 chemicals fall into this category. Although thousands of facilities report toxics emissions to the Air District, only a subset are subject to Rule 11-18.

Each year, the Air District calculates a screening health risk and assigns facilities a "prioritization score." Facilities with scores above defined screening thresholds (10 for Cancer Risk, or 1 for Non-Cancer Risk) must undergo a full HRA. Currently, about 350 facilities across a variety of industrial sectors are expected to undergo Rule 11-18 review.

The current list of facilities can be found on the Air District's website at: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/community-health/facility-risk-reduction-program/facility-risk-reduction-list>

Key Requirements Under Rule 11-18

Health Risk Assessments

Facilities identified through the prioritization process must undergo an HRA. Under previous versions of the rule, the Air District was responsible for conducting these assessments. Results are compared to established Risk Action Levels to determine which sources contribute most to facility-wide health risks and whether additional action is needed.

Risk Reduction Plans

If an HRA indicates that risks exceed the Risk Action Levels, the facility must develop an RRP outlining how it will either reduce health risks below the established thresholds or demonstrate that significant risk sources are implementing Best Available Retrofit Control Technology for Toxics (TBARCT).

Purpose of 2026 Amendments

Since the adoption of Rule 11-18, implementation of the rule has taken longer than anticipated, slowing efforts to reduce community health risks. To address this, the Air District initiated a two-phase amendment process:

- **Phase 1 (adopted June 3, 2026):** Procedural improvements and implementation efficiency; and
- **Phase 2 (future):** Evaluation of increases in rule stringency.

Highlights of the 2026 Phase 1 Amendments

The Phase 1 amendments, adopted on June 3, 2026, are designed to improve

consistency and reduce delays, while maintaining Air District oversight.

Key changes include:

- **Standardized Review Process and Timelines:**

The review process will follow these main stages: emissions inventory and prioritization scores, development of a modeling protocol, preliminary HRA, public comment period, final HRA, and if needed, an RRP. Specific timelines apply for each stage.

- **Incorporating New Emissions Data:**

The amendments clarify how updated emissions data, such as source test results, should be incorporated into HRAs.

- **Prioritization Score Updates:**

Within 30 days of receiving an HRA notification, facilities may recalculate and request reconsideration of their prioritization scores.

- **Facility-Prepared HRAs:**

Facilities will prepare their own modeling protocols, subject to Air District approval. Facilities will also prepare preliminary and final HRAs using the approved modeling protocols. Work can be done internally or by engaging consultants. The Air District will review the modeling. Shifting HRA preparation to the facility is expected to streamline reviews and increase efficiency.

Yorke Engineering, LLC specializes in air quality and environmental consulting for stationary and mobile sources, including dispersion modeling, health risk assessments, permitting, emissions inventories, air quality compliance systems, etc. Yorke Engineering has assisted over 2,350 customers, including a wide variety of industrial facilities and government organizations throughout California.