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Air Quality Analysis Handbook

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SCAQMD is in the process of developing an "Air Quality Analysis Guidance Handbook" (Handbook) to replace the CEQA Air Quality Handbook approved by the AQMD Governing Board in 1993. The 1993 CEQA Air Quality Handbook is still available but not online. To obtain a hardcopy of the 1993 Handbook, contact SCAQMD's Subscription Services at (909) 396-3720. In addition, there are sections of the 1993 Handbook that are obsolete. A description of the obsolete sections can be obtained from [CEQA Air Quality Handbook](#).

In order to assist the CEQA practitioner in conducting an air quality analysis while the new Handbook is being prepared, the following supplemental information is available:

Significance Thresholds and Analysis

- [Greenhouse Gases \(GHG\) CEQA Significance Thresholds](#)
- [Localized Significance Thresholds](#)

PM 2.5 Significance Thresholds and Calculation Methodology

- [SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds \(PDF, 123kb\)](#)

Emission Factors

- [Off-Road - OFFROAD Model Mobile Source Emission Factors](#)
- [On-Road - EMFAC 2007 \(v2.3\) Emission Factors](#)
- [Toxic Emission Factors from Combustion Sources \(PDF, 25kb\)](#)

Cumulative Impacts Emission Analysis

- [Potential Control Strategies to Address Cumulative Impacts from Air Pollution White Paper \(PDF, 2.6MB\)](#)
 - [Appendices \(PDF, 140kb\)](#)

Future CO Concentrations

The following documents provide CO emissions and projected future concentrations in order to assist the CEQA practitioner with a CO Hotspots Analysis.

- [Average Annual Day CO Emission in the South Coast Air Basin \(DOC, 19 kb\)](#)
- [Projected Future Year 1-Hour Concentration \(ppm\) \(DOC, 23 kb\)](#)
- [Projected Future Year 8-Hour Concentration \(ppm\) \(DOC, 23 kb\)](#)

Air Toxics Analysis

- [Mobile Source Toxics Analysis](#)
- [Risk Assessment Procedures for Rules 1401 and 212](#)

Air Quality Guidance for General Plans, Local Planning, and School Siting

- [Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans, Local Planning, and School Siting](#)

High Cube Warehouse Trip Rate Study for Air Quality Analysis

- [Study Home Page](#)

Mitigation Measures

- [Mitigation Measures and Control Efficiencies](#)
- [CAPCOA- Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures \(PDF, 7.7MB\)](#)

Other Useful Links

- [Guidance on Frequently Questioned Topics in Roadway Analysis for the California Environmental Quality Act \(CEQA\) \(PDF, 758kb\)](#)
- [Western Riverside Council of Governments' Good Neighbor Guidelines for Siting New and/or Modified Warehouse/Distribution Facilities](#)
- [Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning](#)
- [California Air Resources Board Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective \(PDF, 1.5MB\)](#)
- [Pilot Study of High Performance Air Filtration for Classroom Applications \(PDF, 1.1MB\)](#)

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Periodic newsletter updates via Email on a variety of air quality-related topics



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SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds

Mass Daily Thresholds ^a		
Pollutant	Construction ^b	Operation ^c
NOx	100 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
VOC	75 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
PM10	150 lbs/day	150 lbs/day
PM2.5	55 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
SOx	150 lbs/day	150 lbs/day
CO	550 lbs/day	550 lbs/day
Lead	3 lbs/day	3 lbs/day
Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs), Odor, and GHG Thresholds		
TACs (including carcinogens and non-carcinogens)	Maximum Incremental Cancer Risk \geq 10 in 1 million Cancer Burden > 0.5 excess cancer cases (in areas \geq 1 in 1 million) Chronic & Acute Hazard Index \geq 1.0 (project increment)	
Odor	Project creates an odor nuisance pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 402	
GHG	10,000 MT/yr CO ₂ eq for industrial facilities	
Ambient Air Quality Standards for Criteria Pollutants ^d		
NO ₂ 1-hour average annual arithmetic mean	SCAQMD is in attainment; project is significant if it causes or contributes to an exceedance of the following attainment standards: 0.18 ppm (state) 0.03 ppm (state) and 0.0534 ppm (federal)	
PM10 24-hour average annual average	10.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (construction) ^e & 2.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (operation) 1.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	
PM2.5 24-hour average	10.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (construction) ^e & 2.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (operation)	
SO ₂ 1-hour average 24-hour average	0.25 ppm (state) & 0.075 ppm (federal – 99 th percentile) 0.04 ppm (state)	
Sulfate 24-hour average	25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (state)	
CO 1-hour average 8-hour average	SCAQMD is in attainment; project is significant if it causes or contributes to an exceedance of the following attainment standards: 20 ppm (state) and 35 ppm (federal) 9.0 ppm (state/federal)	
Lead 30-day Average Rolling 3-month average	1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (state) 0.15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (federal)	

^a Source: SCAQMD CEQA Handbook (SCAQMD, 1993)

^b Construction thresholds apply to both the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley (Salton Sea and Mojave Desert Air Basins).

^c For Coachella Valley, the mass daily thresholds for operation are the same as the construction thresholds.

^d Ambient air quality thresholds for criteria pollutants based on SCAQMD Rule 1303, Table A-2 unless otherwise stated.

^e Ambient air quality threshold based on SCAQMD Rule 403.

KEY: lbs/day = pounds per day ppm = parts per million $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ = microgram per cubic meter \geq = greater than or equal to
 MT/yr CO₂eq = metric tons per year of CO₂ equivalents > = greater than