

## Air Tank and Boiler Pressure Vessel Permitting Fact Sheet

### California Pressure Vessel Program

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) enforces the state's health and safety regulations and laws through a number public safety programs. The Pressure Vessel Program addresses public safety by ensuring the safe operation of pressure vessels.

### Permit applicability

Permits are required for all pressure vessels that:

- are subjected to pressure over 15 pounds per square inch (psi), and
- have capacities greater than 125 gallons.

### Definition of boiler and air tank

These definitions apply to pressurized tanks and boilers:

| <i>Equipment</i> | <i>Definition</i>                                                                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Boiler           | any fired or unfired pressure vessel used to generate steam pressure by applying heat               |
| Tank             | any unfired pressure vessel used for the storage of air pressure or liquefied petroleum gases (LPG) |

### Examples of regulated pressure vessels

Examples of pressure vessels include:

- air tanks,
- liquid petroleum gas (LPG) containers, and
- high pressure boilers.

### Exemptions

Exemptions from permitting requirements exist for some pressure vessels depending on the vessel's capacity and operating pressures including:

- Tanks and boilers owned or controlled by U.S. government
- Air tanks and boilers used in household domestic services
- Air tanks that supply air for transportation vehicle brakes
- Automobile boilers or boilers used to run motor vehicles
- Tanks with a 5.5 cubic feet volume or less which do not exceed a pressure of 150 psi
- Tanks with pressures less than 15 psi of gas, regardless of size
- Boilers in which the pressure is less than 15 psi

### Permitting Agency

In California, pressure vessel inspections and permitting is performed by the DOSH Pressure Vessel Unit.

For inspections and permitting information, contact one of these DOSH Pressure Vessel Unit district offices:

|                         |                                                                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oakland District Office | 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1302<br>Oakland, CA 94612<br>(510) 622-3066        |
| Anaheim District Office | 2100 East Katella Avenue, Suite 145<br>Anaheim, CA 92806<br>(714) 939-0434 |

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## Business Environmental Resource Center

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BERC is a joint service provider and partner with these local government agencies:

Sacramento Metropolitan  
Air Quality Management  
District

City of Sacramento  
Department of Utilities

Sacramento Regional  
County Sanitation District

Sacramento Regional Solid  
Waste Authority

Sacramento County  
Municipal Services Agency  
\* Department of Water  
Resources  
\* Planning and Community  
Development Department  
\* County Engineering

Sacramento County  
Environmental  
Management Department

Sacramento County  
Department of Economic  
Development and  
Intergovernmental Affairs

Sacramento Municipal  
Utility District

Sacramento County  
Airport System

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## Air Tank and Boiler Pressure Vessel Permitting Fact Sheet, *continued*

### Permitting and inspection information summary

Permits are issued to pressure vessels after inspection and testing by a certified inspector to demonstrate compliance with safety regulations. This table summarizes some of the important permitting and inspection information:

| <i>Equipment type</i>                                                        | <i>Permit term</i> | <i>Inspection must occur...</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Boilers                                                                      | Annual             | Annually, for permit renewal<br>Note: for exceptions, see the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Sections 770 & 771 available on-line at: <a href="http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/sub2.html">www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/sub2.html</a> |
| Fixed Air tanks                                                              | 5 years            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For permit renewal</li> <li>• Upon change of ownership <u>and</u> re-location of tank</li> <li>• If the tank becomes unsafe</li> <li>• If the tank is altered</li> </ul>                    |
| Portable Air Tanks                                                           | 3 years            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Air tanks with pressure less than 150 psi and volume less than 25 cubic feet | indefinite         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

The fees associated with permitting an air tank or boiler vary depending on the inspection and permit. Contact one of the DOSH Pressure Vessel District Offices for more information.

### Posting of permit required

Permits must be posted either:

- under glass on or near the air tank or boiler, or
- in a waterproof container attached to the unit.

### Notifying DOSH of address changes

You are required to submit a change of address notice to one of the DOSH Pressure Vessel District Offices if the address or location of a permitted tank changes even if the company name remains the same.

### Regulatory references

- California law governing tanks and boilers is found in the California Labor Code 7620 – 7626, available on-line at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/pressure.html>.
- The regulations pertaining to tanks and boilers is found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1 & 2 as shown here:

| <i>For:</i> | <i>Refer to...</i>                                                                                                              |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tanks       | Subchapter 1, Sections 450-560,<br><a href="http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/sub1.html">http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/sub1.html</a>  |
| Boilers     | Subchapter. 2, Sections 750-797,<br><a href="http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/sub2.html">http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/sub2.html</a> |

### Local Air District

In some cases, it may also be necessary to obtain a separate permit from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). For more information, call SMAQMD at (916) 874-4800 or go to <http://www.airquality.org/>.