

Air Curtain Incinerators

Helpful Information for Owners/Operators

Air Curtain Incinerators (ACI) are a tool for the management of tree and wood debris. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will provide assistance to owner/operators of the incinerators to educate and make them aware of the requirements associated with an ACI.

Air Curtain Incinerators – What You Need to Know

Regulations and permitting requirements for ACIs vary based on intended use and the industrial sector it serves.

- Commercial or Industrial Facilities (NSPS CCCC)
 - The Environmental Protection Agency requires owner/operators of ACIs at commercial or industrial facilities to obtain operating permits under the Title V program.
 - DEQ has created a General Permit (GP) to facilitate permitting for ACIs subject to Title V. The GP limits the use of the ACI to burning wood waste, clean lumber, yard waste and a mixture of only these materials. ACIs that only burn these materials are required to meet limited emission limitations, monitoring and record keeping requirements.
 - ACIs used to combust solid waste may not operate under the general permit and are required to obtain a site-specific preconstruction permit and a TV operating permit. The unit will be subject to more extensive emission limitations, monitoring, and record keeping requirements established under NSPS CCCC.
- Municipal or Institutional Facilities (NSPS EEEE)
 - DEQ requires owner/operators of ACIs at municipal or institutional facilities to obtain preconstruction and operating permits.
 - Use of an ACI at a municipal or institutional facility to burn wood waste, clean lumber, yard brush, and a mixture of only these materials are required to meet limited emission limitations, monitoring and record keeping requirements and do not trigger the requirement to obtain a Title V permit. DEQ does not have a general permit for these facilities.
 - Use of an ACI to burn less than 35 tons per day of municipal solid waste or, if located at institutional facilities, burning any amount of institutional waste generated at that facility are subject to all requirements of NSPS EEEE, including emission limitations, the requirement to obtain a preconstruction permit and a TV operating permit. DEQ does not have a general permit to cover this use.
 - Temporary-use ACIs used in disaster recovery to combust debris in an area declared a state of emergency by a local or state government, or the president, may be used for a limited duration and may be subject to notification requirements under NSPS EEEE. They are not required to obtain an operating permit.

ACIs must be operated according to manufacturer specifications.

An ACI is required for land clearing operations within counties with a population greater than 500,000 or counties that have been designated nonattainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Currently Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties meet the population requirement.



Owner/Operators of ACIs Used Exclusively to combust Wood Waste, Clean Lumber, Yard Waste and a Mixture of Only These Materials Are Required to Keep Records as Follows:

- Initial Method 9 opacity test results conducted no later than 180 days after the ACI's initial startup (Method 9 tests can only be performed by certified individuals).
- Annual Method 9 opacity test results conducted no more than 12 calendar months following the date of the previous test.
- Monthly and 12-month rolling totals of the amount of material burned.
- Types of materials burned in the ACI.

Owner/Operators of ACIs at Municipal or Institutional Facilities and Used Exclusively to Combust Wood Waste, Clean Lumber, Yard Waste and a Mixture of Only These Materials Are Subject to the Following Reporting Requirements:

- Results of the initial Method 9 opacity test no later than 60 days following the initial test.
- Results of the annual Method 9 opacity test within 12 months following the previous report.
- Annual Emission Inventory (EI): The EI reports the amount of emissions emitted from the ACI during a calendar year. EIs are due by April 1st, yearly.

Owner/Operators of ACIs at Commercial or Industrial Facilities Which Are Used Exclusively to combust Wood Waste, Clean Lumber, Yard Waste and a Mixture of Only These Materials Are Subject to the Following Reporting Requirements:

- Results of the initial Method 9 opacity test no later than 60 days following the initial test.
- Results of the annual Method 9 opacity test within 12 months following the previous report.
- Semi-Annual Monitoring and Deviation Report (SAR) due 30 days after each 6-month period. SARs report the results of any required monitoring. SAR forms are available for download on the DEQ website at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/air-quality-division/forms-public-participation/air-forms/>, under the Compliance/Enforcement tab.
- Annual Certification of Compliance (ACC) due 30 days after each anniversary date of the issuance of the original operating permit. The ACC is a certification of compliance with the terms and conditions of the operating permit. ACC forms are available for download on the DEQ website at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/air-quality-division/formspublic-participation/air-forms/>, under the Compliance/Enforcement tab.
- Annual Emission Inventory (EI): The EI reports the amount of emissions emitted from the ACI during a calendar year. EIs are due by April 1 yearly.

How DEQ Can Help

- The Air Quality Division (AQD) will provide assistance to applicants throughout the permitting process.
- AQD will provide assistance/training with record keeping and reporting.
- Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division (ECLS) will provide technical assistance regarding proper set-up and operation.

If you have any questions or need assistance regarding permitting, record keeping, reporting or operation, please call AQD at **(405) 702-4100**.