



FACT SHEET - Rule 2.40

WOODBURNING APPLIANCES

FIREPLACES • WOODSTOVES • INSERTS

Background Information

Rule 2.40, Wood Burning Appliances, was adopted by the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) on December 8, 2004. The rule prohibits the sale or installation of wood burning appliances that do not meet emission standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The rule applies to all new installations, but does not affect existing appliances. Local jurisdictions (cities and counties within YSAQMD) can also adopt local ordinances that can be more restrictive.

What is a Wood Burning Appliance?

The term “wood burning appliance” refers to any fireplace, wood heater, pellet-fueled wood heater, or any other similar enclosed device which burns solid fuel and is used for aesthetic or space heating purposes.

Why Regulate Wood Burning Appliances?

When wood is burned, especially in an inefficient manner such as in an open-hearth fireplace, it produces wood smoke that contains hundreds of chemical compounds including particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and organic gases. Many of these compounds can cause or contribute to serious health problems, especially in sensitive segments of the population such as children, the elderly, and people with respiratory ailments. PM generated by wood burning has been linked to increased mortality rates and respiratory disease because the very fine particles (PM_{2.5}) can penetrate deep into the lungs.

What is Covered Under Rule 2.40?

Rule 2.40 applies to appliances installed on or after January 1, 2006:

- new residential and commercial construction
- new installations associated with remodels
- indoor installations
- outdoor installations

What is Not Covered Under Rule 2.40?

Rule 2.40 covers only permanently installed stationary appliances, so it does not cover portable units, such as chimineas or fire pits. If during a remodel, repairs are done on an existing fireplace, Rule 2.40 would not apply.

What is Allowed Under Rule 2.40?

These appliances are allowed:

- Any wood burning appliance that is EPA Phase II certified
- Pellet stoves
- Any wood burning appliance that meets the EPA Phase II emission standards
- Natural gas or propane fueled stoves
- Natural gas or propane fueled inserts



What is Not Allowed Under Rule 2.40?

The following may not be installed:

- Any open-hearth wood burning appliances
- Any wood burning appliance that is not certified to meet the EPA Phase II emission standards
- Any EPA exempt appliances