



# COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

September 3, 2014

## NEW NO<sub>x</sub> LIMITS FOR WATER HEATERS AND SMALL BOILERS

**BACKGROUND:** On April 8, 2009, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (District) Board revised Rule 2.37 Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters and Small Boilers. The purpose of this rule is to limit emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) from water heaters to improve air quality in the District.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Effective January 1, 2014, lower NO<sub>x</sub> limits went into effect for **new** natural gas combustion devices with rated heat inputs below 1 million British Thermal Units (Btu) per hour.

	Rating (Btu/hour)	NO <sub>x</sub> Limit ppm @ 3% O <sub>2</sub> dry Effective 1/1/2014
Water heater/boiler	<75,000	15
	75,000 to <1,000,000	20
Mobile home water heater	All	55
Pool/spa heater	> 400,000 & < 1,000,000	20

This rule does not require retrofits of existing units; it only affects new units at the point of sale, manufacture, or installation.

### **ENFORCEMENT:**

The District does not require a stationary source Authority to Construct (ATC) or Permit to Operate (PTO) for a natural gas fired combustion device with rated heat input less than 1 million Btu/hr. Therefore, this rule is mainly enforced at the point of sale (where the units are sold) or installation (through the building department permitting process).

### **TERMINOLOGY CLARIFICATION:**

”Boilers” rated below 400,000 Btu/hr and “water heater” rated above 400,000 Btu/hr **are subject to standards.**

In the standards table (section 301 of Rule 2.37), the rule uses the terms *small water heaters*, *large water heaters*, and *small boilers*, and each of these terms are defined in section 200. The common denominator in the definitions is that all of these are devices that heat water. The definitions aren’t dependent on whether the device makes hot water or steam. As explained in the staff report developed in 2009, the terms were used for clarification purposes, as the District was trying to use terms that we believed industry used.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** For additional information regarding this advisory, contact Frank DeMaris at (530) 757-3650. For other District rules changes, check our webpage at <http://www.ysaqmd.org/rules-dev.php>.