

AIR QUALITY CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

IS A MODIFICATION TO MY AIR CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NEEDED?

This fact sheet provides additional clarification on when an air construction permit modification may or may not be needed, as specified in Linn County Code of Ordinances (LCCO) Chapter 10.5(2). The code states "a permit for modifications and additions to the existing sources and new equipment must be obtained before any on-site construction takes place." Table 1 pairs common modification scenarios with the appropriate action steps to be taken by the applicant. If the scenarios in Table 1 do not address a particular situation, please either refer to the Equipment Modification FAQ or contact Linn County Public Health's Air & Water Quality Branch (LCPH A&WQB) at 319-892-6000 for assistance.

Table 1 groups modifications into four common categories: General, Equipment Relocation, Stack Parameter Alterations, and Emission Unit Alterations. Within these categories, 23 common scenarios are identified with a corresponding action step for each scenario ("Yes," "No" or "Maybe").

A modification of an air construction permit may not be necessary for all "Maybe" scenarios, but a determination request regarding the proposed change is required. The A&WQB will determine if the proposed change meets all regulatory requirements. The applicant may choose to submit an air construction permit application rather than waiting for a determination due to project time constraints.

The purpose of evaluating stack parameter changes or equipment relocations is to ensure that the proposed changes do not affect attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Even if the altered stack parameter has not been relied on in a previous NAAQS analysis, some changes may still require modification of an air construction permit.

For alterations to an emission unit, a determination request or permit application is required. An A&WQB permit writer will evaluate the request and determine if a permit modification is needed. A formal written response of A&WQB determination will be sent to the applicant once the review is complete.

ACTION STEPS FOR MODIFICATION SCENARIOS

- ✓ **YES:** The applicant must submit an air construction permit application.
- ✓ **NO:** An application does not need to be submitted to LCPH A&WQB. If multiple changes are proposed, then each proposed modification must meet the "No" criteria specified in Table 1 before no further action is required of the applicant.
- ✓ **MAYBE:** The applicant shall either submit a request to LCPH A&WQB to determine if an air construction permit modification is necessary or submit an air construction permit application to LCPH A&WQB.

This document is intended to serve as guidance only and may not be used as a substitute for reading and complying with all applicable statutes and rules or to legally bind Linn County Public Health. The scenarios depicted in this document are merely examples, and enforcement decisions will be made based on the specific facts and circumstances of each case. This document was compiled by Iowa DNR on 12/29/15 and amended by LCPH A&WQB, and may not reflect changes in the law, changes in the NAAQS, or changes in modeling practices that occur after this date. The information included in this document has been compiled in an effort to simplify the permitting process for parties unfamiliar with DNR's and LCPH A&WQB's rules.

For assistance, contact Linn County Public Health Air & Water Quality Branch at 319-892-6000.

Table 1: Common Modification Scenarios

SCENARIO			MODIFICATION NEEDED?		
			YES	MAYBE	NO
GENERAL	1	Change in Ownership ¹	✓		
	2	Change in Facility Name			✓
	3	Complete removal of all permitted equipment associated to an emission point ²			✓
EQUIPMENT RELOCATION ⁴	4	Relocation of internally vented equipment within the same building			✓
	5	Relocation of internally vented equipment to a new building		✓	
	6	Relocation of externally vented equipment or stack	✓		
	7	Modify stack from internally vented to externally vented or from externally vented to internally vented.	✓		
STACK PARAMETER ALTERATIONS ⁴	8	Stack discharge style changes from Horizontal/Vertical Obstructed/Downward to Vertical Unobstructed			✓
	9	Stack discharge style changes from Vertical Unobstructed to Horizontal/Vertical Obstructed/ Downward	✓		
	10	Any stack, whose actual height is ≥ 25% the permitted value	✓		
	11	Any stack, taller than 52 feet, whose actual height is within one foot of the permitted value			✓
	12	Any stack, with a height ≤ 52 feet, whose actual height is less than the permitted value	✓		
	13	Any stack, taller than 65 feet, whose actual diameter is within 10 inches of the permitted value			✓
	14	Any stack, with a height ≤ 65 feet, whose actual diameter does not conform to the permitted value		✓	
	15	A change in exhaust flowrate more than ± 25% of the permitted value in scfm	✓		
	16	A change in exhaust temperature more than ± 25% the permitted value in °F	✓		
	17	Replacement of a stack that conforms to all permitted values at the same location except for deviations allowed above.			✓
EMISSION UNIT ALTERATIONS	18	Change in emission limit, operating limit, recordkeeping requirement, or monitoring requirement in a permit	✓		
	19	Complete replacement of permitted equipment	✓		
	20	Partial replacement of permitted equipment ³		✓	
	21	Replacement or modification of control equipment		✓	
	22	Any change in capacity or a change in the method of operation of existing permitted equipment		✓	
	23	Removal or addition of equipment to a permitted emission point ³	✓		

1. See LCCO 10.5(6)(c) for ownership change notification requirements.
2. Submit a written request to rescind an air construction permit to LCPH A&WQB that includes the plant number and applicable permit numbers.
3. Refers to replacement, removal, or addition of an emission unit when multiple emission units exhaust to a single stack.
4. If the equipment involved in PSD, NA NSR, or SIP maintenance plan permitting, then additional evaluation may be necessary. Please contact LCPH A&WQB for additional guidance at 319-892-6000.