

Questions and Answers – Commercial Wood Seller Registration Program

When can we expect this to go into effect?

DEC anticipates implementing this program in the spring or summer of 2016 in the Fairbanks North Star Borough nonattainment area to help that area come into attainment. Before that date, DEC will be testing the program through a completely voluntary pilot program.

How do I know if my business would need to register in the program?

If you or your business primarily sells wood for use in space heating to an entity inside a PM2.5 “serious” non-attainment area, you might be a “commercial wood seller” and this regulation would apply to you. Currently, the Fairbanks North Star Borough PM2.5 non-attainment area is the only “serious” PM2.5 area in Alaska. Wood pellets, manufactured compressed wood logs, bricks, or pucks made from clean wood are exempt from this regulation, so if you are a retailer that isn’t primarily in the business of selling wood for space heating and you sell only these wood fuels and seasoned split wood bundles under 0.75 cubic feet, you are not considered a “commercial wood seller” and wouldn’t need to register in this program. When the program goes into effect, if your business is a “commercial wood seller” and sells wood to an entity in a nonattainment area you would need to obtain and operate under a registration before you can sell or provide wood in a “serious” PM2.5 non-attainment area.

What would this cost me?

DEC understands that this program would cost businesses time and money to comply. DEC anticipates businesses would spend money to purchase approved moisture meters (approximately \$25 each). DEC also recognizes that wood sellers would spend additional time cutting wood, measuring it, filling out forms, and submitting forms to their local DEC office. Aside from an Alaska Business License, there are no registration costs for businesses to participate in the program and registration could be completed online. Forms would be provided free of charge.

What are the benefits to my business?

Registered commercial wood sellers will have their business listed on a publicly available list that can be accessed online. This is free advertisement that will make your business more visible to the public. Sellers that are “Certified Dry Wood Sellers” who consistently provide dry wood will be noted on the list. This may make them more attractive to consumers choosing who to buy their wood from.

What if my business sells or delivers wood to entities both inside and outside the nonattainment area?

Commercial wood sellers would be required to fill out moisture disclosure forms for wood sales or deliveries to entities within the nonattainment area. Sales and deliveries to entities outside of the nonattainment area are not covered under this program.

Why is the state requiring this?

To help mitigate the PM2.5 air pollution problem in Fairbanks and North Pole, it is important that consumers be aware of the moisture content of the wood they are burning. Current proposed regulations would require (starting in fall 2015) the use of dry wood or a mix of compressed wood logs with wet wood between October 1st and March 31st each year. Assuring the consumer is aware of the moisture content of the wood they buy will help them decide if the wood is dry enough to burn right

away, if they should let the wood dry out and season, or if they should mix manufactured compressed wood logs with wet wood. This program arms consumers with the information they need to help them burn more efficiently, comply with regulations, and reduce pollution.

What information will be required on the forms?

The forms DEC intends to use would need information such as the seller's name and ADEC registration number, the type and amount of wood, when the wood was cut, the moisture content of the wood, the date of the sale, the buyer's name, and signatures of the buyer and seller indicating that the buyer is aware of the moisture content.

How many measurements do I take? What about for amounts less than a full cord?

For each full cord or partial cord, take three measurements from random pieces. For example:

<u>Cords</u>	<u>Measurements to Take</u>
0.5	3
1.0	3
1.5	6
2.0	6

and so on...

What does a 'fresh-cut' mean?

The idea is to access the inside of the piece of wood. Wood may be dry on the outside but wet on the inside so it is important to get to the middle of the wood for an accurate reading. It doesn't matter how you make the cut as long as you can access the inside.