

## FAQ: Air Quality Regulations

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### How are air quality regulations established?

The chart on the reverse side outlines the general process for establishing air quality regulations. The process typically takes six to 12 months, depending on the complexity of the regulation, and requires at least one public hearing during the 30-day comment period. All hearings have a call-in number to allow for remote participation.

In addition to the formal public comment period and hearing, DEC often invites the public to participate informally during the development and modification processes through workshops or other public meetings (see reverse for diagram).

### What are “reasonable precautions” and who determines what they are?

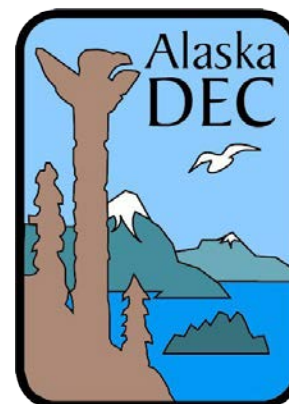
Alaska regulations (18 AAC 50.045) state, “a person who causes or permits bulk material to be handled, transported, or stored, or who engages in an industrial activity or construction project shall take reasonable precautions to prevent particulate matter from being emitted into the ambient air.”

Reasonable precautions are measures to prevent particulate matter from being emitted into the air. Examples include spraying down material with liquid, installing enclosures around areas from which emissions come, and discontinuing operation under unfavorable weather events such as high winds.

When required, DEC works with operators to determine what reasonable precautions are needed to maintain air quality standards.

### How are regulations enforced?

Air quality regulations require facilities that emit specific pollutants above established levels to obtain permits. Permits define how much an individual facility can emit and identifies measures the facility must take to limit emissions. Permits also frequently include monitoring and reporting requirements. DEC inspectors make site visits to ensure permittees are operating within the terms of their permits or to conduct inspections when violations are suspected.



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### Are DOT and Alaska Rail exempt from regulations?

No, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Alaska Rail must follow the same air quality regulations as everyone else.

### Once a new regulation is in place, how long do existing facilities have to come into compliance?

A new regulation takes effect 30 days after it is filed by the Lieutenant Governor's office. Once a new regulation is in effect, all affected facilities must comply. A facility can demonstrate compliance by applying for the required permit. Often, a regulation will identify procedures and a timeframe for existing facilities to come into compliance with new requirements.

### Can municipalities and boroughs have more stringent regulations than the state?

Yes. They would be responsible for enforcing them.

#### Regulation development process

