



June 15, 2017

Subject: Commercial Wood Seller Registration to be Mandatory – August 15, 2017

On June 13, 2016, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) sent a letter to you that described the upcoming requirement for commercial wood sellers to register with (DEC) in order to sell wood to a person located within the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). As explained in the letter, portions of FNSB do not meet the federal health based standards for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), which is found in wood smoke and other combustion exhausts. You were advised that registration would be required when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) redesignated the FNSB PM_{2.5} nonattainment area from a moderate to serious nonattainment area. On May 10, 2017, EPA formally reclassified the FNSB nonattainment area to Serious effective June 9, 2017.

In response to EPA's reclassification to serious nonattainment, DEC issued a public notice on June 15, 2017 stating that commercial wood seller registration will be mandatory after a 60 day grace period ends on August 15, 2017. Please contact DEC to register your firewood business before August 15, 2017 in order to avoid compliance and enforcement actions. Registration is free and can be completed in person at the ADEC Office located at 610 University Ave, Fairbanks or online at: http://burnwise.alaska.gov/moisture_disclosure_program.htm.

This requirement does not limit the sale of unseasoned firewood, it only requires sellers to tell their customers about the moisture content of the wood they are buying so customers can make informed decisions about burning. Wood sellers have several options to meet the moisture disclosure requirements. They can tell the customer the wood is wet/frozen and not make any measurements at all or they can measure the moisture content of the wood and provide the readings to the customer on a form. Only wood that has been measured and has a moisture content less than 20% can be advertised or sold as 'dry' wood.

A summary of the requirements in State regulation 18 AAC 50.076(d)-(f) Commercial wood seller registration program is listed below:

When selling or providing wood to a person located in the FNSB PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area, once reclassified as serious nonattainment area, a commercial wood seller must:

- (1) be registered with DEC as a commercial wood seller, a registration application is required and must be renewed every three years (online or in person),
- (2) have a DEC-approved moisture meter,

(3) have an Alaska business license,

Additional information on registration and compliance requirements can be found online at:
http://burnwise.alaska.gov/moisture_disclosure_program.htm

If you have any questions about this letter or the applicable DEC regulations, you can contact me at (907) 451-5172 or via email at steven.hoke@alaska.gov. Alternately, you may contact Molly Birnbaum at (907) 269-4913 or email at molly.birnbaum@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Hoke", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Steve Hoke
Environmental Program Specialist

cc: Molly Birnbaum, ADEC/NPMS, Anchorage
Cindy Heil, ADEC/NPMS, Anchorage