



ABRASIVE (SAND) BLASTING POLICY

Policy and Guideline #: EPB 244 & 244A

Effective Date: May 1, 2003

Page 1 of 3

Replaces: Guidelines for Abrasive Blasting (Sand Blasting) in Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Environment and Public Safety, Air Quality Branch (undated)

INTENT:

To provide guidance to industry and government on protecting the environment during abrasive blasting. To incorporate risk management principles in the evaluation of permits under *The Clean Air Act*. To update the Air Quality Guideline applying to all abrasive blasting, blasting, or sandblasting in Saskatchewan. To provide a more integrated approach on managing multiple regulatory issues (air and waste).

CONSIDERATIONS:

Saskatchewan Environment's (SE) environmental protection principles place greater emphasis on user responsibility, pollution prevention, risk assessment, less intervention and regional delivery of programs. These factors have emphasized placing the greatest effort on issues of significant environmental risk. SE also recognizes that polluting "up to a limit" is not acceptable and that the best strategy to avoid future problems is keeping clean areas clean. The aim of this guideline on abrasive blasting is to streamline or eliminate the regulatory requirements for permitting individual abrasive blasting operations in Saskatchewan.

POLICY and GUIDELINE(S):

Permit to Operate pursuant to *The Clean Air Act* will not be required effective May 1, 2003. The Abrasive (Sand) Blasting Guideline (Appendix 1) will provide adequate information to the industry to provide environmental protection. Nuisance complaints against a company may result in Control Orders or Permit to Operate, at the discretion of SE. On occasion, sandblasting may produce hazardous waste. The guideline instructs the user to be aware of this possibility and to properly identify and dispose of waste material.

Existing, low-risk operations that are currently being permitted will be exempted, pursuant to s7 Minister's Orders under *The Clean Air Act*.

EVALUATION:

Complaints would result in investigation and possibly permits or Control Orders. The Guideline will be updated from time to time, as required.

BACKGROUND:

In 1997 all industries with a Permit to Operate pursuant to *The Clean Air Act (CAA)* were automatically given a 5 year extension. The intent was to provide SE the opportunity to consider future licensing needs for industries based on risk management principles. Since 1997 the maintenance of permits has been at the discretion of the EcoRegion with the result that requirements for abrasive (sand) blasting may be different depending on their location in the province.

SE has developed and is in the process of applying a risk management model to CAA permits in the province. The first step was to conduct a risk assessment. Risk assessment on the sources was done on a sector-by-sector approach (e.g., review the residual risk associated with all grain elevators, all concrete plants, etc.). SE's first step was determining the residual risk posed by operations both on an individual and sector-collective basis. Those with high residual risk became potential candidates for permitting.

Once the list of candidates was identified, the second step was to examine them in the context of risk management. In other words, for each of the candidates SE would determine if there are existing codes of practice, guidelines, ISO, etc. (management tools) that could be used in lieu of permitting. If there were management tools associated with these candidate sectors then they would be eligible for exemption under CAA. If not, they would be permitted under CAA until such management tools exist.

As a final note, whether an industry is or is not permitted does not affect SE's role in responding to nuisance complaints. Controls Orders may be used for any contravention of *The Clean Air Act*. An industry that is the object of complaints or does not adhere to the appropriate guidelines may be permitted, at the discretion of the environmental project officer, even though the industry group, as a whole, is considered low risk.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION: (Required)

1. Legislative References/Authority:
 - *The Clean Air Act 1995, c.A-12.1*
 - *The Clean Air Regulations, Chapter C12.1 Reg. 1.*
 - *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002*
 - *The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations; Chapter E-10.2 Reg. 3.*
 - *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations; Chapter E10-2 Reg. 4.*
 - *The Environmental Spill Control Regulations; Chapter D-14 Reg 1.*
2. Permits/Forms
 - none
3. Permit Conditions
 - n/a
4. Reference Material
 - i) Department
 - a. Guidelines for Abrasive Blasting (Sand Blasting) in Saskatchewan,

Saskatchewan Environment and Public Safety, Air Quality Branch
b. Canada-wide Standards for PM & Ozone Status of Jurisdictional
Implementation Activities "Saskatchewan"

- ii) General (Open List)
 - a. See Appendix 1
- iii) Outside Department Contact(s)
none

5. Prepared by/Contact

- Grassland EcoRegion Environmental Protection, Kim Hallard, Environmental Project Officer, 306-787-1562
- Environmental Protection Branch, Terry Hanley, Manager Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Section, 306-787-1372

CONTACT: Kim Hallard, Environmental Project Officer

BRANCH: Grassland EcoRegion Environmental Protection

PHONE: 306-787-1562

APPROVED BY: **Joseph Muldoon**
Director,
Environmental Protection Branch

DATE: May 6, 2003