



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182  
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 102 – DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the Lead Agency and will prepare a Notice of Exemption for the project identified above.

On December 29, 2004, the U.S. EPA excluded from the federal definition of volatile organic compound (VOC) 1,1,1,2,3,3,3,-heptafluoropropane (commonly known as HFC-227ea) and on July 23, 2012, the U.S. EPA excluded from the federal definition of VOC trans-1,3,3,3-tetrafluoropropene (also known as HFO-1234ze) on the basis that these compounds have negligible contribution to the formation of tropospheric ozone. These compounds have low or minimal toxicity, are not listed as hazardous air pollutants under the federal Clean Air Act, have a flammability rating equal to or less than comparable VOC compounds, have an ozone depleting potential (ODP) less than or equal to comparable compounds, and have a lower global warming potential (GWP) than comparable compounds. Based on staff's review of relevant data pertaining to these two compounds, the SCAQMD is now proposing to add HFC-227ea and HFO-1234ze to the list of compounds exempt from the definition of VOC as Group I compounds in Rule 102. Evaluation of the proposed project resulted in the conclusion that it will not create any adverse effects on air quality or any other environmental areas. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Since it can be seen with certainty that the proposed project has no potential to adversely affect air quality or any other environmental area, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – Review for Exemption. Upon adoption, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Any questions regarding this Notice of Exemption should be sent to Jeff Inabinet (c/o Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources) at the above address. Mr. Inabinet can also be reached at (909) 396-2453.

**Date:** March 1, 2013

**Signature:** *Steve Smith*

Steve Smith, Ph.D.  
Program Supervisor  
Planning, Rule Development &  
Area Sources

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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<b>To:</b> County Clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino	<b>From:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
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**Project Title:**

Proposed Amended Rule 102 – Definition of Terms

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**Project Location:**

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) area of jurisdiction consisting of the four-county South Coast Air Basin (Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

On December 29, 2004, the U.S. EPA excluded from the federal definition of volatile organic compound (VOC) 1,1,1,2,3,3,3,-heptafluoropropane (commonly known as HFC-227ea) and on July 23, 2012, the U.S. EPA excluded from the federal definition of VOC trans-1,3,3,3-tetrafluoropropene (also known as HFO-1234ze) on the basis that these compounds have negligible contribution to the formation of tropospheric ozone. These compounds have low or minimal toxicity, are not listed as hazardous air pollutants under the federal Clean Air Act, have a flammability rating equal to or less than comparable VOC compounds, have an ozone depleting potential (ODP) less than or equal to comparable compounds, and have a lower global warming potential (GWP) than comparable compounds. Based on staff's review of relevant data pertaining to these two compounds, the SCAQMD is now proposing to add HFC-227ea and HFO-1234ze to the list of compounds exempt from the definition of VOC as Group I compounds in Rule 102. Staff estimates that PAR 102 may potentially reduce about 83 tons per year of VOC emissions from foam manufacturing operations that replace currently-used foam blowing agents with HFO-1234ze and may also reduce flammability risks associated with currently used foam-blowing agents. The potential use of HFO-1234ze as a substitute for hydrocarbon propellants may also result in VOC reductions from consumer products in aerosol form.

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**Public Agency Approving Project:**

South Coast Air Quality Management District

**Agency Carrying Out Project:**

South Coast Air Quality Management District

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**Exempt Status:**

General Concepts [CEQA Guidelines §15002 (k)(1)];  
Statute Exemption [CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(1)]; and  
General Rule Exemption [CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(3)]

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**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The SCAQMD has reviewed the proposed amendments to Rule 102 pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15002(k)(1) – Three Step Process, and CEQA Guidelines §15061 – Review for Exemption, and has determined that the proposed amendments are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061 (b)(3) (“General Rule Exemption”). Evaluation of the proposed project resulted in the conclusion that it will not create any adverse effects on air quality or any other environmental areas. The proposed project may produce beneficial effects by reducing VOC emissions and may reduce potential hazard impacts at facilities that replace currently used organic compounds with the two compounds proposed to be added to the list of exempt compounds in Rule 102. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Since it can be seen with certainty that the proposed project has no potential to adversely affect air quality or any other environmental area, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – Review for Exemption.

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**Certification Date:**

SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: March 1, 2013, 9:00 a.m.; SCAQMD Headquarters

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**CEQA Contact Person:**

Mr. Jeffrey Inabinet

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<jinabinet@aqmd.gov>

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**Rule Contact Person:**

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Date Received for Filing \_\_\_\_\_

Signature                     Signed upon certification                    

Steve Smith, Ph.D.  
Program Supervisor  
Planning, Rule Development  
and Area Sources