



San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

March 10, 2025

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

Rule 69.6 – Natural Gas-Fired Fan-Type Central Furnaces

In July 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reclassified the San Diego air basin to a severe nonattainment area for both the 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This reclassification triggered the need to further reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) which is a precursor to ozone.

On November 14, 2024, the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (District) Governing Board adopted revisions to [Rule 69.6 – Natural Gas-Fired Fan-Type Central Furnaces](https://bit.ly/SDAPCDRules) (<https://bit.ly/SDAPCDRules>). These revisions are estimated to result in an annual reduction of 256 tons of NO_x which are needed to reduce ambient ozone levels. Rule 69.6 applies to persons who manufacture, distribute, sell, offer for sale, or install natural gas-fired furnaces with a rated heat input capacity of less than 175,000 British thermal units per hour (Btu/hr) and combination heating and cooling units with a rated cooling capacity less than 65,000 Btu/hr.

Effective May 14, 2025, persons who manufacture, distribute, sell, offer for sale, or install furnaces that have a rated heat input capacity of less than 175,000 Btu per hour or a combination heating and cooling unit with a rated cooling capacity less than 65,000 Btu per hour must comply with Rule 69.6 and a 14 nanogram NO_x/joule (ng NO_x/J) emission standard. The exception to this are furnaces used in manufactured and mobile homes which must meet a 40 ng NO_x/J emission standard. Furnaces subject to Rule 69.6 must have labels displaying the brand name, model number, and the rated heat input or cooling capacity in Btu/hr (as applicable). Rule 69.6 sections (g), (h), and (i) contain other requirements such as record keeping, emission testing, and test methods. All other requirements within the Rule 69.6 amendments were effective as of November 14, 2024.

Each furnace model is required to be certified 30 days before it is offered for sale, sold, or installed within San Diego County as indicated in section (e) of the rule. A furnace model certified by South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Bay Area AQMD, or San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is considered certified in San Diego County. The certification from these air districts or the documentation provided to those air districts for certification shall be available upon request.