



Industry



The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide some background information on industrial air emissions in Victoria, and how these are managed. Most industrial processes, such as manufacturing and power generation, create some level of air pollution. The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) regulates emissions from activities posing a significant risk to human health and/or the environment through industrial licencing and the requirement for major works to be assessed and approved by EPA (works approvals).

Pollutants

The main industrial air emissions are particulate matter (PM), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and, indirectly, ozone (O₃). Air toxics can also be released in smaller amounts. There is more information on these pollutants in the fact sheet *Air pollution sources, impacts and trends*.

Some key programs to reduce industrial emissions

Scheduled premises

Victoria's Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises) Regulations 2017 list a range of premises subject to EPA works approvals and licencing, including:

- Chemical production works
- Oil refineries
- Cement factories
- Power stations and water desalination plants
- Iron and steel manufacturing
- Waste treatment, disposal and recycling operations, including sewage

- Primary industries such as feedlots with over 5000 animals, saleyards and fish farms
- Abattoirs, tanneries and renderers
- Food processors
- Textile plants
- Timber and wood processors
- Waste to energy plants

For example, the *Environment Protection Act* requires that the occupier of a "scheduled premises" must obtain a works approval if they wish to increase or alter their discharges to air. The works approval process is the main tool used by EPA to control and reduce emissions from proposed industrial activities.

Class 3 substances

Air emissions classified as "Class 3" are highly toxic, radioactive or cancer-causing compounds. They include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, dioxins and furans, asbestos (respirable silica) and trichloroethylene. Being of particular danger to the community if exposure occurs, all emitters of Class 3 substances must reduce emissions of these substances to the maximum extent possible. EPA ensures compliance with this statutory requirement.





Reducing emissions from small and medium industries

Planning permits are typically required for small and medium sized industries not subject to works approval and licensing under the *Environment Protection Act*.

Council planning schemes require that proposals for new industries comply with state environment protection policies. Through these, there are requirements for best practice emission controls being implemented to minimise air emissions from these sources.

The planning permit process is the major proactive tool used by councils to control emissions from small and medium industries.

Codes of practice and industry guidance are also developed by EPA to assist some small to medium sized industries in reducing environmental impacts.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2018

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Printed by (insert printing company name, suburb).

ISBN XXX-X-XXXXX-XXX-X (print)

