

Auto Body Shops

Background

Auto body shops specialize in repairing vehicles by fixing paint or body damage from scratches, dents, and collisions. The paints or coatings used at auto body shops may cause odors and emit air pollutants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or toxic air contaminants, such as metals. The emissions and odors may come from solvents evaporating from paint and solvent applications, clean-up of parts, and storage.

Other operations conducted at auto body shops, such as sanding and

grinding, can result in emissions of fine dust from metal compounds (e.g., chromium and nickel).¹ The fine dust containing metal compounds can collect in indoor areas, and can become re-suspended and escape into the outdoor environment, where it can impact the neighboring community.

Figure 5f-1: Auto body repair shop painting a motor vehicle



Community Air Quality Priority – Emissions from Auto Body Shops

The CSC identified emissions from a number of auto body shops along specific corridors and main streets in the East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce community as an air quality priority. The CSC recognizes that auto body or repair shops are typically small local businesses that may face difficulty complying with existing regulations (e.g., unpermitted open spraying and poor housekeeping practices), potentially contributing to increased emissions and odors.

Based on the South Coast AQMD Facility Information Detail (FIND)² database, there are 16 auto body shops with spray booth permits in this community. Additional unpermitted businesses may also exist in this community. Facilities operating without permits or not following rule requirements or permit conditions can lead to excess emissions and increased odors and dust, along with creating an unfair advantage over businesses that comply with the rules.

Ongoing Efforts

The South Coast AQMD's Small Business Assistance Program³ offers small business owners and operators free technical assistance, including information on which rules apply to their facilities and operations and how to meet the rule requirements. Among other services, the Small Business Assistance Program can help provide information to auto body shop owners or operators about compliance with the applicable rules described below.

5f-1

Rule 1151 – Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Non-Assembly Line Coating Operations,⁴ reduces VOCs and toxic air contaminants from automotive coatings or paints applied to motor vehicles or parts. Rule requirements include VOC limits for automotive coatings or installing an emission control system, following best practices for applying coatings, and recordkeeping.

Rule 1171 – Solvent Cleaning Operations,⁵ reduces VOCs and toxic air contaminants from the use, storage, and disposal of solvents. Solvents are often used in auto body or repair shops to clean parts, tools, and machinery.

Some products used by auto body and repair shops, such as spray paints and solvents, contain VOCs. In addition, over the last decade, water-based automotive coatings with lower VOCs and lower VOC solvents have become available. However, the VOCs from these products can still cause odors that can travel downwind. South Coast AQMD’s Rule 402 – Nuisance,⁶ addresses issues such as odors or annoyances (e.g., sanding dust and paint overspray) from nearby business operations. Individuals can file a complaint by calling 1-800-CUT-SMOG or can fill out an online form.^{7,8} South Coast AQMD inspectors follow up on complaints by investigating whether an alleged source is in compliance with rule and permit requirements. A public nuisance violation can be issued if there are confirmed reports of odors from a considerable number of persons.

Auto body and repair shops may use products that are flammable or present a fire hazard. Local fire agencies require permits for the use or storage of hazardous materials.⁹ They may require auto body shops to follow permit conditions with ventilation requirements, use spray booths, and store flammable liquids in appropriate containers. Fire departments inspect businesses to ensure compliance with permit conditions and other appropriate regulations.

Opportunities for Action

Input provided from the CSC led to the actions described below to reduce emissions from auto body shops.

Action 1: Reduce Emissions from Auto Body Shops
Course of Action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct targeted outreach to auto body shop owners and operators in the community, including providing information on the South Coast AQMD’s Small Business Assistance Program, permitting process, and applicable rules and regulations • Provide public outreach on South Coast AQMD’s complaint system (1-800-CUT-SMOG and online form) in this community • Provide information to the community on the requirements of Rule 402, which address nuisance (e.g., odor and fugitive dust) and Rules 1151 and 1171, which reduce emissions from motor vehicle coating and solvent cleaning operations at auto body shops and related businesses

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with local fire departments to inspect possible unpermitted auto body shops and provide information on pertinent fire safety and hazardous waste storage regulations Conduct air monitoring near auto body shops and if persistent elevated levels are found through monitoring conduct follow-up investigations and/or enforcement actions, where appropriate 	
Strategies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Information and Outreach Air Monitoring Enforcement Collaboration 	
Goal(s):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in two public outreach events to distribute information about the South Coast AQMD's Small Business Assistance Program Distribute outreach materials on an annual basis to auto body shops in this community to explain the requirements of Rules 402, 1151, and 1171 and South Coast AQMD's complaint system Collaborate with local fire departments to inspect unpermitted auto body shops in the community and distribute pertinent outreach materials during the implementation period of this CERP Provide the CSC quarterly or biannual updates on enforcement or outreach activities 	
Estimated Timeline:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-2020, begin outreach to the community on information about applicable rules and regulations, permitting process, South Coast AQMD's Small Business Assistance Program, and the South Coast AQMD's complaint system Mid-2020, begin quarterly or biannual updates to the CSC on outreach and enforcement activities, or if new information becomes available Mid-2020, coordinate with local fire departments and develop plan to inspect unpermitted auto body shops and distribute outreach materials Early 2020, begin air monitoring near auto body shops 	
Implementing Agency, Organization, Business or Other Entity:	
Name:	Responsibilities:
South Coast AQMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to auto body shops and related businesses in this community on the South Coast AQMD's complaint system, the permitting process, and about compliance with Rules 402, 1151, and 1171 Conduct mobile monitoring as described in the CAMP Conduct targeted enforcement activities, as needed
CSC members	Collaborate with South Coast AQMD to help distribute information in this community

Los Angeles City Fire Department	Provide outreach information to the community regarding fire safety regulations pertinent to auto body shops and update South Coast AQMD if any unpermitted auto body shops are found
Additional Information:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Coast AQMD's Complaint System: http://www3.aqmd.gov/webappl/complaintsystemonline/NewComplaint.aspx • Small Business Assistance: https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/small-business-assistance/free-help-for-small-businesses.pdf • Requirements for Rule 402 (Nuisance): http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-402.pdf • Requirements for Rule 1151 (Motor Vehicle Coating Operations): http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/rule-1151.pdf • Requirements for Rule 1171 (Solvent Coating Operations): http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/rule-1171.pdf 	

References

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