

3. Air Quality

****The Agency Contact Information section of this Alabama summary contains addresses, phone and fax numbers, and web sites of all organizations identified below.****

Air quality in Alabama is regulated by three different agencies:

- Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Air Division;
- Huntsville, Division of Natural Resources and Environmental Management (covering Huntsville); and
- Jefferson County Department of Health (covering the Birmingham area).

ADEM's Air Division enforces state air quality regulations and has been given authority by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements throughout the state. Huntsville's Air Pollution Control Board and Jefferson County's Department of Health each manages delegated federal and state air quality program requirements in their respective areas, along with their own local ordinances and rules.

State air quality regulations are codified at Alabama Administrative Code (AAC) 335-3-1 through 335-3-20. Huntsville regulates air emissions within the city's area of jurisdiction under authority of state law, as codified by City of Huntsville Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations (HAPCR), Chapters 1-18. Jefferson County has been delegated authority by state law to regulate air emissions within the county's area of jurisdiction, as codified by the Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations, Chapters 1-10.

Air Quality Permitting and Management

Overall Permitting and Air Quality Management Requirements

Air quality permitting and management requirements in Alabama generally follow the federal structure.

- Facilities with stationary sources of air pollution must obtain a permit prior to building, erecting, modifying, altering, or replacing any equipment that would lead to an increase in air pollutant emissions. (AAC 335-3-14.01(1)(a))
- Facilities must submit an air permit application prior to construction of an air pollution control device that would cause a decrease in emissions. (AAC 335-3-14.01(1)(a))
- ADEM or the delegated local air agency will determine whether or not to grant an exemption to a permitting requirement on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of the permit application. (AAC 335-3-14.01(1)(e))