

# Air Program Fact Sheet • General Permits - Hot Mix Asphalt Plants

August, 2007

## WHAT IS A “GENERAL PERMIT FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT PLANTS?”

General permits for asphalt plants contain standard requirements that apply to the paving industry and are available to all portable and most stationary facilities. There are two types of General Permits for asphalt plants; General Construction Permits for new asphalt plants and General Operation Permits for existing asphalt plants.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE REGISTRATION PERMIT FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT PLANTS?

- Flexibility to construct, modify, or replace equipment, without obtaining a new construction permit as long as the facility continues to comply with all conditions of the general operation permit after the change.
- One set of requirements for companies with multiple asphalt plants.
- Swift DNR decisions on permits —15 days or less.
- Simplified permit application and permitting process.
- Lower administrative costs—no revisions or permit renewals because the general operation permit does not expire.
- No construction permit fee! The construction fee is waived because the plants regulated under the general construction permit are not major sources.

## WHO CAN GET ONE?

- Most portable asphalt plants and most stationary asphalt plants can get a general permit. The Department will perform modeling on a stationary asphalt plant to determine if it is eligible for a general permit. The general permits are limited to facilities with a design production capability of no more than 700 tons of asphalt per hour with a baghouse for emission control, and that meet the modeling criteria listed below in “Other Eligibility Criteria” .
- For the purposes of the permit, an asphalt plant is any facility that identifies code 2951 as a *primary* Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) or code 324121 as a *primary* North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for operations at the facility.
- The GCP/GOP for asphalt plants includes all on-site equipment and aggregate handling operations, excluding the mobile equipment (end loaders, backhoes, etc.)
- Flexibility to construct, modify, or replace equipment, with exception of the drum and burner combination, without obtaining a construction permit as long as the facility continues to comply with all conditions of the general operation permit after the change. Changing the drum and burner combination would require a construction permit as the department would consider that to be a new facility.

## EMISSION LIMITATIONS

Standard emission limitations apply to all hot mix asphalt plants regardless of the permit type.

For particulate matter:

- Asphalt plants subject to the NSPS (New Source Performance Standards) requirements, may emit no more than 0.039 grains per dry standard cubic foot.
- Hot mix asphalt plants not subject to NSPS requirements may emit 0.30 pounds per 1000 pounds of exhaust gas (including the back-half catch).

For visible emissions, limitations are:

- 20% for asphalt plants subject to the NSPS requirements.

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<b>Table 1: Asphalt plants General Permit Limits</b>	
<b>Pollutant/Synthetic Minor Condition</b>	<b>Limitation</b>
Particulate Matter/PM <sub>10</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asphalt produced may not exceed 62,500 tons/month, 12 month rolling average</li> </ul>
Sulfur Dioxide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>125,000 gallons of fuel/month, 12 month rolling average</li> </ul>
Sulfur Content of the Hot Mix Asphalt Plant Fuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May not exceed 1.3% by weight</li> </ul>
IC Engines- Gen Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14,167 gallons of fuel/month, 12 month rolling average</li> </ul>
Section 112(b) Hazardous Air Pollutants – IC Engines (gen sets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel sulfur content not to exceed 500 ppm until 2010 then it becomes 15 ppm sulfur content</li> <li>Tier 2 emission standards for stationary sources<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
Soil Remediation-Organic Compound Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>47 lb/day in Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington or Waukesha County</li> <li>216 lb/day in all other counties in the state</li> </ul>
Nitrous Oxides/Ozone Nonattainment Counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24.9 tons/year based on a 12 month rolling average</li> </ul>

### OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Combustion units used at the facility may burn only biodiesel, distillate oils, gasoline, any combination of these fuels, or butane, propane, or natural gas.
- The asphalt plant must have a maximum equivalent diameter stack of 5.67 feet and a minimum stack height of 25.0 feet above the ground. The stack must have a vertical unobstructed exhaust point.
- Internal combustion (IC) engines (gen-sets) must have a vertical unobstructed exhaust point at least 12.0 feet above ground level and the stack inside diameter at the outlet may not exceed 1.5 feet.
- A Department-approved Fugitive Dust Control Plan must be specified. Applicants may elect to specify the Department-approved plan which is included in the application materials or submit their own for approval.
- The permit is not applicable to an asphalt plant that is rated at more than 700 tons per hour production capacity.
- A facility's existing individual operation permit(s) must be revocable by the department. For most businesses, this will be possible.
- Facilities that have a general construction permit, will receive a general operation permit, upon; 1. submittal of proof of compliance with the emission limitations contained in the construction permit and, 2. with an application for the general operation permit.

### WHAT REQUIREMENTS ARE IN THE PERMIT?

- Facility production and fuel use may not exceed the limits in Table 1.
- Annual recordkeeping of production/usage data necessary to calculate emissions.
- Must meet all other state (NR 400 – NR 499) and federal air pollution requirements that apply to the facility.
- Facility must submit annual compliance certification/monitoring report and report emissions to the air emission inventory (AEI) each year.
- All replacement equipment is exempt from permitting requirements if it meets the conditions of the general permit. However, the facility must notify the Department that it has replaced equipment and perform any required testing on that equipment. Replacement of the drum and burner combination would require a construction permit.
- Fuel sulfur content for the gen sets may not exceed 500 ppm during the period 2007 through 2009. On December 1, 2010, fuel sulfur content may not exceed 15 ppm.

<sup>1</sup> Tier 2 is applicable if the IC engine remains or intends to remain in a single location for any 12 consecutive month period, and combusts or intends to combust 10,000 gallons or more of fuel during that period of time.

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- IC engines (gen sets) are limited to 14,167 gallons of liquid fuel per month averaged over 12 months.
- IC engines (gen sets) rated greater than 600 brake horsepower may not use more than 50 gallons of fuel per hour, or emit more than 1.0 pounds of particulate matter per hour.
- IC engines (gen sets) rated 600 brake horsepower or less may not use more than 30 gallons of fuel per hour, or emit more than 1.33 pounds of particulate matter per hour.
- Facilities receiving a general construction permit are required to perform stack testing on the asphalt plant, and visible emissions testing on all equipment that is covered in the permit. This requirement is the same for a facility receiving a standard individual construction permit.

<b>TABLE 2 : INSIGNIFICANT EMISSION UNITS OR ACTIVITIES</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Convenience space heating units with heat input capacity of less than 5 million Btu per hour that burn gaseous fuels, liquid fuels or wood</li> <li>2. Convenience water heating</li> <li>3. Maintenance of grounds, equipment and buildings, including lawn care, pest control, grinding, cutting, welding, painting, woodworking, general repairs and cleaning, but not including use of organic compounds as cleanup solvents</li> <li>4. Boiler, turbine, generator, heating and air conditioning maintenance</li> <li>5. Pollution control equipment maintenance</li> <li>6. Internal combustion engines used for warehousing and material transport, forklifts and courier vehicles, front end loaders, graders and trucks, carts and maintenance trucks</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Fire control equipment</li> <li>8. Janitorial activities</li> <li>9. Office activities</li> <li>10. Fuel oil storage tanks with a capacity of 10,000 gallons or less</li> <li>11. Stockpiled contaminated soils</li> <li>12. Sanitary Sewer and Plumbing Venting</li> <li>13. Process Fuel and Asphalt Cement Tanks.</li> <li>14. Particulate matter from natural gas combustion in press dryers, control device, and other heating units so long as fuel usage or heat input capacity caps in Attachment 1 are met.</li> <li>15. Silo Vapors</li> <li>16. QA/QC Lab Trailer</li> </ol>

### IS THERE A DOWNSIDE TO A GENERAL PERMIT?

- Yes. The permit limits production to 62,500 tons per month based on a 12 month average. This production limit at the facility may be too confining. Fuel used in production is restricted to 125,000 gallons per month based on a 12 month average. It is up to the facility to determine whether or not they can operate within the restrictions of the general permit.

### NEXT STEPS

- Interested asphalt plant facilities should request revocation of their existing permit(s). DNR will notify each facility if all of its permits can be revoked. If they cannot be revoked, the facility is not eligible for a General Permit for Asphalt Plants. The Revocation Form is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air/apji/regpermits.html>
- Download the air permits application forms at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air/permits/downloads.htm#GOP>. Complete the forms and send them to Joseph Brehm, Bureau of Air Management, Re: General Permits for Asphalt Plants, 101 South Webster St., PO box 7921, Madison, WI 53703. DNR has 15 days to review each application and either grant or deny coverage or ask for more information.

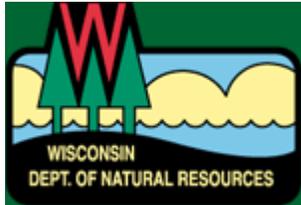
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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on general permits and to download this fact sheet, please see:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air/api/GeneralPermits.html>
- General Permit Contact: Joe Brehm 608-267-7541, [Joseph.Brehm@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Joseph.Brehm@wisconsin.gov)

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