



## Breaking News

# Rheem Government Affairs

March 16, 2023

## California Policy Update

### Bay Area Approves Zero-NOx Emissions Standard for Appliances

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) approved proposed amendments to Rules [9-4](#) and [9-6](#), which set limits on nitrous oxides (NOx) for natural gas-fired appliances, including **residential and commercial furnaces, storage and instantaneous water heaters, boilers, and combination space/water heating boilers**. In addition to new ultra low-NOx requirements, BAAQMD has implemented **zero-NOx standards**, setting a precedent for zero-emissions regulations for appliances. The BAAQMD is one of 35 air districts in California with individual pollution control regulations.

Compliance is based on the date of manufacture, propane gas models are excluded, and mobile home water heaters and pool heaters are not affected.

An implementation Working Group has been established that will periodically report to the Board on technical readiness and equitability. At least two years prior to the compliance date, an interim report will include a technology assessment that details the projected costs of purchase and installation of such technology.

#### Rule 9-4: Natural Gas Fired Furnaces (<175k Btu/h)

	Current	Ultra low-NOx	Zero-NOx
Limit	≤40 ng/J	≤14 ng/J	≤0 ng/J
Deadline	Existing	Jan 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2029

#### Rule 9-6: Natural Gas Fired Boilers and Water Heaters

	Current		Zero-NOx	
Limit	≤10 ng/J	≤14 ng/J	≤0 ng/J	
Input Rate, Btu/h	≤75k	>75k to ≤2M	≤75k	>75k to ≤2M
Deadline	Existing	Existing	Jan 1, 2027	Jan 1, 2031

## Key Takeaways

California continues to lead the U.S. in policies and programs related to decarbonization.

This is the first zero-emission regulation of its kind for gas appliances in the U.S.

The BAAQMD rules go beyond the state-wide California Scoping Plan to implement zero-emissions standards for 2030.

For more information, please visit the [BAAQMD rulemaking page](#)

