



## Certificates of Approval (Air) for Commercial and Residential Sites

### What is a Certificate of Approval (Air)?

A Certificate of Approval (Air) (CoA) is a legal document issued by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) that allows the installation (and subsequent operation) of equipment that emits contaminants into the atmosphere. Section 9 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) requires a CoA be obtained for the construction, alteration, or operation of any equipment that emits to the environment. This requirement does not only apply to Industrial facilities - Commercial, Residential (more than 3 units), and institutional sites also require CoAs to install and operate equipment such as standby power generators, and fuel fired HVAC units, air make-up units, water heaters, or boilers.

### Who needs a Certificate of Approval (Air)?

If you own, or operate on behalf of the owner, any of the following equipment, it is likely that you need a CoA:

- Natural gas (or other fuel) comfort heating equipment (HVACs, water heaters, boilers etc...) if the combined capacity of all equipment at the facility is **more than** 1.5 million BTU/hour
- Power generation equipment (such as a diesel fired emergency generator set)
- Cooling Towers

Other sources that can potentially emit contaminants to the natural environment may also require a CoA.

### What do I need to do to comply?

If your facility requires a CoA, then an application package must be submitted to the MOE. This package must contain administrative documents (such as MOE forms, and a Proof of Legal Name), as well as a detailed technical assessment that includes a prediction of contaminant impacts on other properties and structures, and technical drawings. In the case of rental residences, a prediction of the impact on tenant's units may also be necessary. The assessment must show that the predicted impact meets the standards set out in O. Reg. 419/05 and other MOE guidelines.

The application must be submitted in a certain format, and all technical calculations must be carried out in accordance with MOE requirements, using MOE approved computer models. Failure to do so can result in the application being returned, or can greatly increase the time it takes for the MOE to process the application and issue the CoA.

Most of the equipment found on residential, commercial, and institutional properties is eligible for **streamlined review**, which means that if there are no problems with the application, a CoA can be issued within a matter of weeks. However; only applications that are prepared properly can take full advantage of this expedited process.

A fee is payable to the MOE to cover the cost of processing and reviewing an application for a CoA (not covered in your taxes, unfortunately!).

### When do I need to comply by?

Generally, a CoA must be obtained **before** the equipment is installed (or otherwise modified or replaced). Operating equipment that would have required a CoA at the time of installation without that CoA is an offence under the EPA. If this is the case at your facility, a CoA should be obtained as soon as possible.

### What can Spectrum Environmental do for you?

Spectrum Environmental has been assisting clients with obtaining CoAs since 1994. We are familiar with the MOE application process, the streamlined review process, and the administrative and technical requirements for an application package. We can prepare all required forms, execute all required calculations, and generate and necessary drawings and plans.

Spectrum Environmental can act as your liaison to the MOE for the approvals process. This means we handle any questions the MOE may have regarding the application and its contents. Often, the only involvement required by our clients is the supply of some specifications and administrative documents. We handle the rest.

Choosing Spectrum Environmental to prepare your CoA application ensures that your application will be prepared in a correct and complete manner, will take full advantage of any streamlined processes available, and will be supported from submission to approval.

If you have any questions about the above, or would like more information, please feel free to contact us by phone at 905-842-6411, by e-mail at [spectrum@chaltis.ca](mailto:spectrum@chaltis.ca), or by leaving a comment on our website, <http://www.spectrumenvironmental.ca>.

We look forward to hearing from you.