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Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants Frequently Asked Questions

A. What is a Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plant?

A nonmetallic mineral processing plant is a combination of equipment used to crush or grind any nonmetallic mineral. Nonmetallic mineral processing plants are commonly used in the construction industry for producing crushed stone and aggregate.

The core of the plant is usually one or several rock crushers. However, other equipment that are part of the nonmetallic mineral processing plant and which may also be subject to federal reporting, testing, and recordkeeping requirements include any grinding mill, screening operation, bucket elevator, belt conveyor, bagging operation, storage bin, or enclosed truck or railcar loading station associated with the crusher(s).

B. What State rules apply to this equipment?

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) [Chapter 101](#) contains visible emission standards (opacity standards) for rock crushers, stationary engines, general process sources, and fugitive emissions (e.g. stockpiles and roadways).

All nonmetallic mineral processing plants are required to be licensed by the Maine DEP Bureau of Air Quality. Licensing can be done either under Maine DEP [Chapter 115](#) or through a general permit under Maine DEP [Chapter 149](#). A Licensing Engineer in the Bureau of Air Quality can help you determine which license type is best for you. Air Licensing can be contacted at (207) 287-7688 or DEP-Air-Licensing-Help@maine.gov.

C. What Federal regulations apply to this equipment?

EPA's [Standards of Performance for Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants, 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart OOO](#), applies to equipment at nonmetallic mineral processing plants with capacities greater than 25 ton/hr for fixed plants and 150 ton/hr for portable plants. This regulation applies to rock crushers **and** any grinding mill, screening operation, bucket elevator, belt conveyor, bagging operation, storage bin, or enclosed truck or railcar loading station associated with the crusher(s), collectively referred to as other "affected facilities."



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Stationary engines at nonmetallic mineral processing plants are likely subject to at least one Federal regulation. There are no Federal regulations applicable to portable engines. This document focuses on requirements for process equipment. More information on engines can be found at the links below.

Information on small stationary engines is available at the following Maine DEP website: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/air/publications/index.html>

Additional information on Stationary Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE) can be found on EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-engines>

The following link is for a tool developed by EPA to help facilities determine their requirements under 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart ZZZZ: <https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/atw/rice/output/quiz.html>

D. I have a general permit issued by the Department. Doesn't that cover everything I need to do?

Not necessarily. General permits issued under Maine DEP Chapter 149 attempt to address requirements for crushers and the engines that power them. However, there may be equipment on-site not addressed by the general permit (such as screens and belt conveyors) that have requirements under EPA's Subpart OOO that are not spelled out in the general permit. It is the responsibility of the equipment owner/operator to be aware of and maintain compliance with these requirements.

E. What standards do I need to meet?

In addition to the visible emission requirements in Maine DEP [Chapter 101](#), equipment subject to EPA's Subpart OOO must meet the following standards:

1. Visible emissions from crushers manufactured between 8/31/1983 – 4/22/2008 shall not exceed 15% opacity on a six-minute block average basis.
2. Visible emissions from crushers manufactured after 4/22/2008 shall not exceed 12% opacity on a six-minute block average basis.
3. Visible emissions from any affected facility, other than rock crushers, (including transfer points on belt conveyors, portable screens, etc.) which commenced construction, modification, or reconstruction, before April 22, 2008, shall not exceed 10% opacity on a six-minute block average basis.



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4. Visible emissions from any affected facility, other than rock crushers, (including transfer points on belt conveyors, portable screens, etc.) which commenced construction, modification, or reconstruction, on or after April 22, 2008, shall not exceed 7% opacity on a six-minute block average basis.

F. What inspections do I have to do? What records do I have to keep?

Most nonmetallic mineral processing plants control emissions of particulate matter through use of water sprays. The Equipment Owner/Operator must maintain records detailing the maintenance on particulate matter control equipment including spray nozzles. The Equipment Owner/Operator must perform monthly inspections of any water sprays to ensure water is flowing to the correct locations and initiate corrective action within 24 hours if water is found to not be flowing properly. Records of the date of each inspection and any corrective action required must be included in the maintenance records. The maintenance records must be kept on-site at the rock crushing location.

G. I am considering purchasing a new piece of equipment. What do I need to do?

Prior to purchasing a crusher, please contact Maine DEP Air Licensing to address licensing requirements.

If the equipment is part of a nonmetallic mineral processing plant with a capacity greater than 25 ton/hr (for fixed plants) or 150 ton/hr (for portable plants), the following requirements apply. These requirements come from EPA's Subpart OOO and apply both to the crusher and any affected equipment operated with the crusher, including any crusher, grinding mill, screening operation, bucket elevator, belt conveyor, bagging operation, storage bin, or enclosed truck or railcar loading station. For example, if you purchase a belt conveyor to be used with an existing 200 ton/hour crusher, the following applies to the conveyor.

1. The Equipment Owner/Operator must submit notification to the Department and EPA of the date of initial startup postmarked within 15 days of the startup. This notification shall include a description of each affected facility (crusher, screen, belt conveyor, etc.), equipment manufacturer, and serial number of the equipment, if available. For portable units, this notification must also include both the home office and the current address or location of the portable plant.
2. Subpart OOO, § 60.675 requires that Equipment Owner/Operator to conduct an initial performance test for visible emissions from any crusher and any associated



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affected facilities subject to Subpart OOO, including any associated grinding mill, screening operation, bucket elevator, belt conveyor, bagging operation, storage bin, and enclosed truck or railcar loading station. The initial performance test must be conducted in accordance with the following:

- a. An initial performance test must be completed within 60 days after achieving the maximum production rate at which the unit will be operated, but no later than 180 days after initial startup of the unit. If the initial performance test for a facility falls within a seasonal shutdown, then with approval from the Department, the initial performance test may be postponed until no later than 60 calendar days after resuming operation of the affected equipment.
- b. Each performance test must be done using the methods set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart OOO, § 60.675.
- c. The Equipment Owner/Operator must submit a test notice to the Department at least seven days prior to conducting a performance test.

H. I have existing equipment. Do I need to do anything?

1. Know the age and size of all of your nonmetallic mineral processing equipment, both crushers and any screens, belt conveyors, etc. associated with them.
2. Determine if your nonmetallic mineral processing plant is subject to EPA's Subpart OOO. If you are unsure, contact Maine DEP's Air Licensing section for help.
3. For any crushers subject to Subpart OOO and all of the affected facilities associated with them, know whether a notification of startup has been submitted and whether an initial compliance test has been completed. Fill in any gaps. It is better to be proactive rather than find deficiencies during an inspection.
4. Keep copies of all notifications, test results, and recordkeeping required.



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I. Where do notifications get sent?

All notifications of initial startup and notifications of performance testing should be sent to EPA at the following address:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OES04-2)
 Boston, MA 02109-3912
 Attn: Air Compliance Clerk

In addition:

If you are operating under a general permit (Chapter 149), the notification of initial startup and notifications of performance testing should be sent to the following address:

Bureau of Air Quality – General Permit Coordinator
 Department of Environmental Protection
 17 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333-0017

If you are operating under a standard air emission license issued through Chapter 115, notifications of initial startup and notifications of performance testing should be sent to your local regional inspector.

<p><u>Central Maine Regional Office</u> Bureau of Air Quality - Compliance Section Department of Environmental Protection 17 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0017 phone: (207) 287-7688</p>	<p><u>Northern Maine Regional Office</u> Bureau of Air Quality - Compliance Section Department of Environmental Protection 1235 Central Drive, Skyway Park Presque Isle, ME 04769-2094 phone: (207) 764-0477</p>
<p><u>Eastern Maine Regional Office</u> Bureau of Air Quality - Compliance Section Department of Environmental Protection 106 Hogan Road Bangor, ME 04401 phone: (207) 941-4570</p>	<p><u>Southern Maine Regional Office</u> Bureau of Air Quality - Compliance Section Department of Environmental Protection 312 Canco Road Portland, ME 04103 phone: (207) 822-6300</p>

J. I have more questions. Who can I contact?

A member of Maine DEP’s Air Licensing section would be happy help answer your questions. Please contact us by email at DEP-Air-Licensing-Help@maine.gov or by phone at (207) 287-7688.