



**COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN**

**December 2009**

***RULE 4902 – RESIDENTIAL WATER HEATERS***

***Attention all Manufacturers, Distributors, Retailers, and Installers of residential water heaters.***

Upcoming deadlines in San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) Rule 4902 (*Residential Water Heaters*) will limit oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions from residential water heaters and will affect manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and installers of California Public Utility Commission (PUC) quality natural gas-fired residential water heaters with heat input rates less than or equal to 75,000 Btu/hr.

The requirements and dates of this rule are as follows (except where exempted):

- On/after **January 1, 2010**, no person shall manufacture for sale, distribute, sell, offer for sale, or install within the District, any natural gas-fired water heater or pool heater unless it has been properly certified and meets the NO<sub>x</sub> emission level specified in the rule.
- On/after **January 1, 2012**, no person shall manufacture for sale, distribute, sell, offer for sale, or install within the District, any PUC quality natural gas-fired instantaneous water heater unless it has been properly certified and meets the NO<sub>x</sub> emission level specified in the rule.

The District is taking this opportunity to advise all affected manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and installers of the enforcement strategy for Rule 4902. The District will begin active enforcement of this rule commencing on and after April 1, 2010. The District's expectation is that all subject distributors and retailers will no longer receive any new non-compliant water heater units for sale or installation within the District after January 1, 2010. Notwithstanding the aforementioned strategy, the District reserves the right, on a case-by-case basis, to exercise any and all enforcement action deemed necessary and appropriate.

**Exempted units** include PUC quality natural gas-fired water heaters with rated heat input of greater than 75,000 Btu per hour, water heaters using fuels other than PUC quality natural gas, and water heaters used exclusively in recreational vehicles.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this rule, please contact the staff of the Compliance Department of your local District regional office at the numbers below:

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