



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

FRUIT AND CROP RIPENING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Appendix Chapter 1, section 105.6.18 of the Los Angeles County Fire Code states that permits required by the Fire Code shall be obtained from the fire code official. An operational permit is required to operate a fruit or crop-ripening facility or conduct an fruit-ripening process using ethylene gas.

Ripening processes where ethylene gas is introduced into a room to promote the ripening of fruits, vegetables and other crops shall comply with this chapter.

Exception: Mixtures of ethylene and one or more inert gases in concentrations which prevent the gas from reaching greater than 25 percent of the lower explosive limit (LEL) when released to the atmosphere.

Ethylene generators. Approved ethylene generators shall be operated and maintained in accordance with Section 1606.

Ethylene gas shall be discharged only into approved rooms or enclosures designed and constructed for this purpose.

Dispensing. Valves controlling discharge of ethylene shall provide positive and fail-closed control of flow and shall be set to limit the concentration of gas in air below 1,000 parts per million (ppm).

Ignition prevention. Sources of ignition shall be controlled or protected in accordance with this section and Chapter 3.

Electrical wiring and equipment. Electrical wiring and equipment, including luminaires, shall be approved for use in Class I, Division 2, Group C hazardous (classified) locations.

Static electricity. Containers, piping and equipment used to dispense ethylene shall be bonded and grounded to prevent the discharge of static sparks or arcs.

Lighting. Lighting shall be by approved electric lamps or luminaires only.

Heating. Heating shall be by indirect means utilizing low-pressure steam, hot water, or warm air.

Exception: Electric or fuel-fired heaters approved for use in hazardous (classified) locations which are installed and operated in accordance with the applicable provisions of the *California Electrical and Mechanical Code*.

Smoking. NO SMOKING signs shall be posted at every entrance, in compliance with Section 310.3, and smoking shall be prohibited in ripening rooms.

Housekeeping. Empty boxes, cartons, pallets and other combustible waste shall be removed from ripening rooms or enclosures and disposed of at regular intervals in accordance with Chapter 3.

Ethylene generators. Ethylene generators shall be listed and labeled by an approved testing laboratory, approved by the fire code official and used only in approved rooms in accordance with the ethylene generator manufacturer's instructions. The listing evaluation shall include documentation that the concentration of ethylene gas does not exceed 25 percent of the lower explosive limit (LEL).

Ethylene generator rooms. Ethylene generators shall be used in rooms having a volume of not less than 1,000 cubic feet (28 m³). Rooms shall have air circulation to ensure even distribution of ethylene gas and shall be free from sparks, open flames or other ignition sources.

Approved warning signs indicating the danger involved and necessary precautions shall be posted on all doors and entrances to the premises when required.

Additional
Requirements _____
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