

PA Regulation of Crematories

EMAP has compiled information to assist current and prospective owners of human or animal crematoriums in understanding regulatory concerns and compliance.

A crematory is an establishment containing an incinerator used for cremation of human or animal remains. All crematories will need an air quality permit of some sort **before installation** of each cremation unit to operate the crematory per Pennsylvania DEP requirements.

A general permit ([BAQ-GPA/GP-14](#)) is available for crematories as long as the terms and conditions are successfully met. The terms and conditions for the general permit may be accessed [here](#). Application instructions for the GP-14 may be accessed [here](#).

If the conditions in the general permit cannot be met, then an application for Plan Approval, and later an Operating Permit, should be submitted.

Application wait times once submitted could be around 1 month for a General Permit and up to 6 months for a Plan Approval.

Does the General Permit apply to me?

- The general permit may apply to your human or animal crematory if:
 - Your crematory is fueled by natural gas, propane, or commercial fuel oils which are No. 2 or lighter, and which meet the applicable sulfur requirements for commercial fuel oil.
 - Your crematory has a rated capacity less than 500 pounds per hour.
 - You do not cremate human or animal remains whose weight exceeds 500 pounds including the weight of the container.
 - Stack test data is available from an identical incineration unit within the past 5 years; otherwise you must plan to perform a stack test.
 - Your crematory has an interlock system that ensures you are meeting the work practice standards; or for certain older units, have a written operating procedure.

How do I obtain a permit?

- Complete a permit application form, found here:
<http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-9756>

If a General Permit will not apply, what should I do next?

If the conditions of the General Permit cannot be met, then you must apply for a Plan Approval before you commence construction and installation of the incinerator. The Plan Approval application includes the following forms:

- [General Information Form](#)
- [Compliance Review Form](#)
- [Plan Approval Application for Incinerator](#)

In addition, the Plan Approval application will include the required permit fee and proof of notification to the county and municipality where your business is located.

What information will my Plan Approval/Permit Application include?

- Crematory Information:
 - Type of cremation unit (human/animal; new/modified)
 - Number of cremation units, daily burning hours, rated charging capacity (lbs/hr) of each cremation unit.
 - Type of fuel used, fuel usage metered.
 - Make and model of temperature monitor and recorder used in primary and secondary combustion chambers, secondary chamber exit temperature.
 - Information pertaining to the interlock system including firing and cooling rates.
 - Burner capacity, burner make and model.
 - Stack height and stack diameter of exhaust, , demonstration of particulate compliance (on-site stack testing OR EPA reference method stack test performed in last five years on an identical crematory).
 - Residence time calculations showing that the air stays in the secondary chamber for at least one second.

What else do I need to know?

Operating a crematory in Pennsylvania also requires a number of ongoing recordkeeping, work practice standards, and operating training. It is important to note these requirements exist, and each crematory owner/operator should be familiar with these requirements in order to operate.

The work practice standards under the General Permit include requirements for charging the unit at certain temperature thresholds as well as standards for use of the interlock system. These standards change depending on whether or not the construction of your unit was before or after April 17, 1989.

The General Permit, or GP-14, is only valid for a fixed term of 5 years. A complete renewal application must be submitted to DEP no later than 30 days prior to your permit's expiration date.

Where can I go for assistance?

EMAP offers free and confidential environmental regulatory assistance to small businesses in Pennsylvania. Small businesses may contact EMAP by visiting www.askemap.org or by calling their toll free environmental hotline at (877) ASK-EMAP.

Disclaimer: This information is provided as general information and is not provided nor intended to act as a substitute for legal advice or other professional services.