



Registration Forms  
for  
Residential Heaters (Linn County Form 2009-RH)

Frequently Asked Questions  
January 4, 2009

**1. What are the registration requirements for a residential heater?**

A. An owner or operator of a residential heater with a manufacturer rated heat input of 500,000 Btu/hr or less is required to register the heater with the Air Quality Division of the Linn County Public Health Department (LCPH AQD). On September 16, 2009 the Linn County Board of Supervisors approved revisions to the Linn County Code of Ordinances (LCCO) requiring owners or operators of indirect-fired residential heaters to submit a registration permit for these emission units.

**2. Why was the Linn County Ordinance changed to include the registration requirement?**

A. Since circa 1976, Linn County has had a rule in effect which requires all indirect-fired fuel burning equipment to meet a 0.6 pound per million British thermal units (lb/mmBTU) particulate matter emissions standard for units with a heat input of less than 10 mmBTU. Specifically LCCO 10.8(1)"a" states the following:

This section applies to installations in which fuel is burned for the primary purpose of producing steam, hot water, hot air or other liquids, gases or solids and in the course of doing so, the products of combustion do not come into direct contact with process materials. Fuel includes those such as coal, coke, lignite, coke breeze, fuel oil, and wood but does not include refuse. When any products or by-products of a manufacturing process are burned for the same purpose or in conjunction with any fuel, the same maximum emission limitations shall apply.

LCCO 10.8(2)"a" and "b" state the following:

No person shall cause or permit the emission of particulate matter caused by combustion of fuel in fuel-burning equipment, from any stack or chimney in excess of the quantities set forth in the following table:

Heat input millions of British thermal units per hour.	Maximum allowable emission of particulate matter in pounds per hours per million British thermal units of heat input.
10	0.600

Except as provided in §10.8(3) of this Ordinance, fuel burning equipment with heat inputs less than 10 million BTU, 0.6 lb/million BTU shall apply.

Only until recently did the Department become aware of the fact most indirect-fired heaters using wood as a fuel source fail to meet this emission limitation. Prior to the 2008 LCCO revisions, an exemption existed for fuel-burning equipment for indirect heating or cooling with a capacity of less than one million BTU per hour input when burning wood pursuant to LCCO.9(b). Rather than requiring all individuals to remove these sources, the LCCO was revised to allow current owners to keep these units provided the Department could still demonstrate that the continued use of these units will protect human health and safety.

Rather than requiring owners to apply for a standard air construction permit for these residential heaters a registration permit will be less burdensome for the owner or operator and the agency while still ensuring the owner or operator meets its compliance requirements with the new Linn County regulations.

**3. What is an indirect-fired residential heater?**

A. An indirect-fired residential heater is a residential heater which produces steam, hot water, hot air or other liquids, gases or solids and in the course of doing so, the products of combustion do not come into direct contact with process materials.

**4. My heater is used at a commercial, institutional or industrial facility. Do I qualify for a registration permit?**

A. NO. A standard air construction permit must be obtained. Units installed at these facilities typically have a heat input greater than 500,000 btu/hr. Contact (319) 892-6000 or visit [www.linncleanair.org](http://www.linncleanair.org) for assistance in applying for an air permit.

**5. When is the registration required to be submitted?**

A. All residential heaters which were in existence prior to October 1, 2009 must be submitted by **February 28, 2010**. Installations which occurred after October 1, 2009 should be submitted prior to the installation. **Any submittal after February 28, 2010 will require the owner to provide supporting documentation that it was installed prior to October 1, 2009.**

**6. My residential heater was installed prior to October 1, 2009. What requirements apply to me?**

A. Depending on where you live you may need to install a taller stack or may only be able to burn between September 15 and May 15. The registration permit will help you determine what all applicable requirements are.

**7. My residential heater was installed after October 1, 2009. What requirements apply to me?**

A. The residential heater must have documentation which confirms the unit can meet the 0.6 lb/mmBTU particulate matter emission standard. This must be submitted with the registration permit. The registration permit will help you determine what all applicable requirements are. Since this unit meets the 0.6 lb/mmBTU standard, minimum stack height, setback distances, fuel usage limitations, and seasonal restrictions DO NOT apply.

**8. Can I order a residential heater before I send in the registration form?**

A. Yes, the registration form can be sent in after you order the residential heater. You should submit the registration form to the LCPH AQD prior to installing the residential heater at your residence.

**9. How does the LCPH AQD define installation of the residential heater?**

A. For the purposes of the residential heater registration, installation would be the actual on-site placement of the residential heater at your residence.

**10. Do I need to apply for a mechanical permit through the Linn County Planning & Development Department?**

A. Residential heaters may require a mechanical permit if the unit is installed in unincorporated Linn County. Contact the Building Division at (319) 892-5130 for further details.

**11. What if I live in a city which has its own regulations pertaining to these units. Why do I have to comply with this Linn County requirement?**

A. Linn County has been given delegation by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to conduct programs for the abatement, control, and prevention of air pollution. Linn County Public Health has jurisdiction over all incorporated areas in addition to the unincorporated rural areas of the county. City councils have the authority to enact their own regulations which, in some cases, may be more stringent than the Linn County rules.

**12. If I own a fireplace or a woodstove must I apply for a registration permit?**

A. No. These sources are direct-fired and subsequently are not subject to this regulation.

**13. Where can I find a copy of the regulation?**

A. The entire Linn County Code of Ordinances Chapter 10 – Providing for Air Quality is available on our website here: <http://www.linncleanair.org/Content/Regulations.aspx>. Otherwise contact the LCPH AQD at (319) 892-6000 for a copy of the regulation. The applicable section is LCCO 10.8(3).

**14. Where do I send the registration form?**

A. Send one copy of the registration form to the Air Quality Division, Linn County Public Health Department, 501 13<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405. A copy does not need to be sent to the Iowa DNR or U.S. EPA. The form must be signed.

**15. What happens after I submit the registration form to the Air Quality Division?**

A. The Compliance Section will keep track of the registration of the residential heater. You will receive a formal confirmation from the LCPH AQD when the registration form is received within two (2) weeks of receipt.