



JCI Jones Chemicals Inc. Update on Environmental Compliance



April 2025

Background

JCI Jones Chemicals Inc. (JCI) is located at 1401 Del Amo Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90501. JCI's products are used as disinfectants in municipal drinking and wastewater treatment. Chemicals are brought on site in bulk quantities (railcars, tank trucks, etc.), repackaged into smaller containers, and transported to customers as needed. Any residual compressed gas is absorbed in an appropriate solution and sold as product. JCI handles chlorine and sulfur dioxide, which are regulated under California's Accidental Release Program (CalARP) and the Federal Risk Management Program (RMP).

Is the facility subject to environmental requirements?

JCI is subject to federal, state, and local requirements related to air emissions, water quality, chemical accident prevention programs, and hazardous waste.

Who is involved in this matter?

Multiple environmental agencies at the federal, state, and local level are responsible for regulating JCI and have been engaged in inspection and enforcement activities, including:

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)
- California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazmat (LA County Fire) – Unified Program/Participating Agency (PA)
- Los Angeles Fire Department (LA City Fire) – Unified Program/Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)
- State Water Resources Control Board and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (SWRCB and LA RWQCB)
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (US EPA)

South Coast AQMD Actions

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. The agency conducts regular inspections of businesses and other stationary sources of air pollution to evaluate compliance with applicable air quality rules and

permit conditions. Inspectors also respond to air quality complaints received from the public.

- June 2022: South Coast AQMD conducted an on-site inspection and evaluated two permitted devices: a Sodium Hypochlorite production line and a Sodium Bisulfite production line. A Notice to Comply was issued to obtain records relating to scrubbing solution and heat exchanger specifications.
- August 2023: South AQMD conducted an on-site inspection and issued a Notice of Violation under Rule 203 – *Permit to Operate* for the failure to maintain minimum pH levels in the scrubber for the sodium bisulfite production line.
- September 2024: South Coast AQMD conducted an on-site inspection and issued a Notice to Comply to obtain records relating to scrubbing solution and pH levels.

CARB

CARB is responsible for protecting the public from the harmful effects of air pollution and developing and enforcing programs and actions to fight climate change. CARB implements and enforces engine certification, reporting, and testing requirements to help ensure mobile sources such as heavy-duty trucks are operating and maintained according to statewide emissions standards. Additionally, CARB supports and oversees air district stationary source programs. CARB has not issued citations or Notices of Violation (NOV) to heavy duty vehicles owned by JCI Jones

LA County Fire Actions

Hazardous waste regulations under state and federal law require companies to manage and dispose of hazardous wastes safely and properly. LA County Fire implements the Hazardous Waste Generator program in LA, and JCI is a generator of hazardous wastes. Hazardous waste facilities like JCI are inspected on a triennial basis unless a complaint is received.

On March 18, 2021, LA County Fire PA conducted a routine inspection at JCI to determine compliance with hazardous waste generator requirements. A Class II violation was cited for failure to dispose of 2 x 55-gal drums of "purge water" within 180-days from the date of initial accumulation. This violation was confirmed to be corrected as of April 14, 2021.

On December 5, 2023, a routine hazardous waste compliance inspection was conducted, and no violation was observed.

On May 31, 2024, a joint inspection routine hazardous waste program compliance inspection with US EPA. A Class II violation was cited for failure to dispose of 1 x 35-gal waste cleaning residue and 1 x 25-gal waste rust chips within 180 days of the accumulation start date. A minor violation was cited for failure to label properly 1 x 35-gal waste cleaning residue and 1 x 25-gal waste rust chips hazardous waste containers (both hazardous waste containers were missing the accumulation start dates on the hazardous waste labels). The facility has abated the above-cited violations.

LA City Fire Actions

As the CUPA for the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Fire is responsible for conducting Unified Program inspections at regulated facilities to determine compliance with the:

- Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) Program;
- California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program;
- Underground Storage Tank Program; and
- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act.

LAFD CUPA inspected the JCI September 20, 2016, and September 16, 2019, violations were cited and abated within a couple of months of the inspection.

On September 14, 2022, the CUPA conducted a routine inspection at JCI to determine compliance with HMBP reporting requirements and CalARP Program 3 requirements. Five violations were cited.

On October 3, 2023, the CUPA conducted a reinspection at JCI to verify abatement of previous five violations and two additional violations were cited. Compliance was expected by December 3, 2023. The violations noted from the October 2023 inspection have been resolved.

LAFD accompanied US EPA on May 31, 2024. In October, JCI submitted their annual emergency coordination response plan to LAFD.

JCI and the city continually correspond addressing regulatory questions and resolving any compliance issues between JCI Jones personnel and LAFD.

State and Regional Water Board Actions

The State and Regional Water Boards provide oversight of Clean Water Act programs, including the National Pollutant

Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. JCI is subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Industrial General Permit (IGP). The IGP regulates discharges of pollutants in stormwater runoff from the facility's industrial activities.

LA RWQCB inspected JCI in December 2022 and at the time of the inspection:

- No violations were observed.
- Deficient best management practices were corrected by JCI or through follow-up corrective action documentation provided to the Water Board.
- The facility was being monitored for exceedances of aluminum, iron, and nitrite/nitrate.

SWRCB inspected JCI in January 2024 and at the time of the inspection:

- Deficient Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and best management practices (BMPs) observed were corrected by JCI and corrective action documentation was submitted to the Water Board.
- Facility continues to monitor for exceedances of aluminum and nitrite/nitrate and the effectiveness of BMPs implemented.
- JCI and SWRCB engaged in compliance discussions through the summer of 2024 resulting in JCI committing additional resources and engineering assessments. Continuing discussion on stormwater compliance is ongoing.

CalEPA Actions

CalEPA is the parent agency to six boards, departments, and offices charged with protecting public health and the environment, including DTSC, CARB, and the Water Boards. The HMBP/CalARP Unit at CalEPA oversees the implementation of the CalARP Program at the state level. At this time, CalEPA has not exercised independent enforcement authority over activities at JCI. CalEPA is focused on helping to support the local level Participating Agency as well as ensuring enforcement and compliance activities are consistent, effective, and coordinated.

US EPA Actions

US EPA provides regulatory oversight over states, tribes, and territories. US EPA works with state and local agencies to ensure private and public facilities maintain compliance under environmental statutes, including the Clean Air Act Chemical Accident Prevention Program.

US EPA inspected JCI in 2015 and 2017 to evaluate compliance with chemical accident prevention, state and local emergency planning and release reporting, and federal release reporting requirements. Violations were identified and an August 2021 settlement was reached that required

the facility to complete compliance tasks and fined the facility \$200,000.

In May 2024, US EPA conducted a chemical accident prevention program inspection, as well as a hazardous waste inspection. US EPA was accompanied by inspectors from the LA County CUPA. The inspection results are currently pending.

For More Information Contact:

South Coast Air Quality Management District

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CARB

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For Community Information Contact:

Del Amo Action Committee

Cynthia Babich, Founder and Director, Del Amo Action Committee

<https://delamoactioncommittee.org/>

Community Affected by JCI Jones Chemical, Inc.:

The Del Amo Community is located in unincorporated Harbor Gateway between the cities of Torrance, Carson, Gardena, and Harbor City. The Community is represented by the Del Amo Action Committee, a grassroots organization formed in 1994. The Del Amo Action Committee promotes the empowerment of residents through information on environmental contamination and seeks to collaborate with government agencies, non-profit groups, and residents to make meaningful changes.