

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO AIR STANDARDS FOR EQUIPMENT LEAKS (PUMPS, VALVES, CONNECTORS, ETC.)

ACTION

- On December 15, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final amendment to Clean Air Act rules that modifies an existing work practice standard for finding and repairing equipment leaks at industrial facilities.
- This rule modifies approximately 40 national rules which require a work practice to find and repair equipment leaks in pumps, valves, connectors, etc. These are used at refineries, chemical production facilities, and bulk liquid storage facilities.
- In this rule, EPA provides an optional alternative approach for finding leaks. This approach provides requirements for using an optical gas imaging instrument. The optical gas imaging technology (like night goggles) allows invisible leaks to be seen on a video screen
- The new work practice is expected to reduce the costs of finding leaks.
- The new work practice will have the added benefit of revealing leaks from unregulated equipment, thus, providing the opportunity for both increased safety and additional emission reductions.

BACKGROUND

- Since the early 1980s, EPA has issued numerous rules which require the use of the existing leak detection and repair work practice.
- In these existing rules, refineries and chemical plants are required to monitor periodically (e.g., quarterly) every pump, valve, and flange and repair those which are leaking. The rules require that leaking equipment must be repaired within 15 days after a leak is detected.
- EPA issued the above proposed rule on April 6, 2006 in the Federal Register

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the notice, go to EPA's Web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- Today's final rule amendments and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for this action can be accessed using Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0199.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as, many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.
- For more information about this final rule, contact David Markwordt at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0837 or by e-mail at markwordt.david@epa.gov.