# RCRA Subpart BB - Air Emission Standards for Equipment Leaks



### **Equipment Regulated Under Subpart BB**

- Pumps
- Compressors
- Pressure relief devices
- Sampling connection systems
- Open-ended valves or lines
- Valves
- Flanges and other connectors

Pumps to move liquids or sludges

Compressors to move air

Pressure relief devices to prevent overstress and blow out or structural failure

Sampling connection systems

Open-ended valves or lines - such as taps, sinks, drains, sumps, ends of transfer lines, chutes. Much more common than often thought.

Valves - gate, ball, swing check, butterfly. May be manual operated or power-assisted.

Flanges and other connectors - joints between pipe lengths or pipes and equipment. May be bolted, slip joint, compression, glued, screwed or welded.

### **Applicability Issues for Subpart BB - Some Exemptions Exist for:**

- Equipment which contains or contacts hazardous waste
   < 300 hours per year, if cleaned at end of use [40 CFR §264.1064(g)(6), §265.1064(g)(6)]
- Equipment in vacuum service [40 CFR §264.1064(g)(5), §265.1064(g)(5)]
- Recycling units at 90-day generator facilities that are exempt under 40 CFR §261.6(c)(1) provided no other unit at the facility has to obtain a RCRA permit [40 CFR §264.1050(b)(2), §265.1050(b)(2)]



Subpart BB is applicable to all hazardous waste, unless specifically exempted. Air emission monitoring and control are required if these conditions are met, or there is uncertainty about the waste and the waste could potentially meet these conditions.

# In Subpart BB, Hazardous Waste Streams are Defined by Service

- Light liquid service
- Heavy liquid service
- Gas/vapor service



The definition of light liquid and heavy liquid is provided in 40 CFR §264.1031. 0.3 kPa is equivalent to 2.25 mm Hg.

Presumption is made that a given waste stream is a light liquid, unless proven otherwise. Without analytical proof, a conservative approach must be assumed. Therefore, the more stringent requirements relating to light liquid service would apply.

# **Monitoring Requirements (Slide 1 of 5)**

Equipment	Frequency	Monitoring Activity
Pumps in light liquid service	Weekly	Visual check for evidence of potential leak (drips or staining)
	Monthly	Instrument measure for leak determination (>10,000 ppm above background)

# **Monitoring Requirements (Slide 2 of 5)**

Equipment	Frequency	Monitoring Activity
Compressors	Continuous	Sensor system on seals and barrier fluids
	Daily	Check on sensor system (unless sensor system uses audible alarm, then monthly check)

# **Monitoring Requirements (Slide 3 of 5)**

Equipment	Frequency	Monitoring Activity
Valves in gas/vapor or light liquid service	Monthly	Instrument measure for leak determination (>10,000 ppm above background)
Pressure relief devices in gas/vapor service	Within 5 days after pressure relief event	Instrument measure for no detectable emission (<500 ppm above background)

# **Monitoring Requirements (Slide 4 of 5)**

Equipment	Frequency	Monitoring Activity
Sampling connections	None	Design and installation requirements
Open-ended valves or pipes	Operational	Cap or plug when not in use, or use double valve system

# **Monitoring Requirements (Slide 5 of 5)**

Equipment	Frequency	Monitoring Activity
<ul> <li>Pumps in heavy liquid service</li> <li>Valves in heavy liquid service</li> <li>Flanges and connections</li> <li>Pressure relief devices in light or heavy liquid service</li> </ul>	No frequency stated	Incidental observation of potential leak • Visual method • Olfactory method • Audible method • Other method
		Bathing in BB

### **Closed Vent Systems and Control Devices can Obviate the Need for Monitoring**

- If the equipment is located in an enclosure vented to a control device, no monitoring is required
- Enclosure and control device must meet operational requirements [40 CFR §264.1033, §265.1033]
- Control devices same as required for Subpart CC
  - Carbon adsorbers/GAC and condensers
  - Boilers, incinerators & process heaters
  - Flares

#### [40 CFR §264.1060, §265.1060]

# **Applicability Issues for Subpart BB - Some Exemptions Exist for:**

- Ceramic, ceramic-lined or inaccessible connectors (including porcelain, glass and glass-lined connectors) are exempt from monitoring and recordkeeping requirements
- Pumps with a dual mechanical seal system [40 CFR §264.1052 (d), §265.1052(d)]





Enforcement reality: If a regulatory inspection turns up a leak that has not been previously noticed by the facility (and there is a log entry to document that the facility has apparently been checking), the regulatory inspection becomes the date of first detection. This condition is true even if the leak appears to be significantly pre-exist the regulatory inspection. Subpart BB is not substantially punitive - the emphasis is on trying, as shown by inspection records and a monitoring program, not necessarily on succeeding.

Note also that the repair requirements are general in nature, not specific to equipment type or service condition as are the monitoring requirements.

### **Requirements for When a Leak is Detected**

• Identification (tag) must be attached to leaking equipment [40 CFR §264.1064(c), §265.1064(c)]

- Weatherproof
- Readily visible
- Equipment identification number
- Date potential leak was found
- Date leak detected
- ID tag may be removed after equipment is repaired
  - Except for valves, for which identification may be removed after 2 successive months without a leak being detected

### **Record keeping Requirements - Operating Record of Facility**

- Equipment identification numbers
- Hazardous waste management unit identification numbers
- Approximate location of equipment (plot plan)
- Type of equipment
- Waste state and percent-by-weight total organics in waste stream at equipment
- Method of compliance with standard
- Control device efficiency or performance goal (if a control device is used)

Note that EPA Region 4 requires that this information be included in the Part B permit application and Region 4 usually attaches this information to the permit as an appendix.



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# **Recordkeeping Requirements - Inspection** Log Kept in Operating Record

- Leak measurement instrument, operator, and equipment identification numbers
- Date evidence was found of potential leak
- Date of actual leak detection
- Date of each repair attempt, methods used and outcome
- If repair delayed, reason, supporting documentation, signature of authorizing personnel, and expected date of successful repair
- Date of successful repair
- Inspection records must be kept for at least 3 years

# **Reporting Requirements**

- Semi-annual report for
  - Valve, pump, or compressor leak not repaired as required
  - Dates of HWMU shutdowns
  - Control device exceedence(s)
- Report broken down by month

## **EPA Method 21 Overview**

- Identifies leaks, does not quantify emissions
- Uses portable organic analyzers:
  - Flame ionization (FID)
  - Catalytic combustion
  - Photoionization (PID)
  - Infra-red
- Specific operating procedures and calibrations are required
  - Instrument range and response
  - Daily calibration and pre-use checks
  - Response factor adjustment for specific organic compounds

Bathing in BB 2

EPA Method 21 is found in 40 CFR Part 60.

Correction factors for the compounds being monitored must be known and the results should be corrected during the inspection.

FIDs are temperature sensitive and the ambient temperature during monitoring should be noted in the operating records for the monitoring event.

Methods 21 should be done while equipment is operating to be most effective. The operating records should indicate that the equipment was in operation during the monitoring event.

# **Application Photographs and Diagrams**



Flanged Joint Drawing

Potential location of leak is joint between flanges. The monitoring required is for visual evidence of a leak, such as a drip or stain.



**Open-Ended Pipeline Drawing** 

Open-ended or single valved pipelines include sinks, sumps, drains, and transfer lines. For leaks from a single valve pipeline, think of a dripping faucet (which has a ball valve) and scale up into other types of valves and applications. Also consider a floor drain beneath a process unit.

Open-ended or single valved pipelines require caps, plugs or a double valve installation as an operational procedure for compliance with Subpart BB.



Spring Loaded Relief Valve Drawing

A movable piston or sealing disc responds to internal pressure. Subpart BB requires that the valve returns to a condition of no detectable emissions, defined as an emission that is less than 500 ppm above background, within 5 days of a pressure relief event.

Key issue - how does a facility know when a pressure relief event has occurred? There is no standard in the regulations. It is an issue for design, what is an appropriate pressure for a relief event?

Because of the 5-day time period requirement, the valve must close at least once within every 5 days. The onus is on the facility to prove that the valve actually closes, meaning that the facility must also document when the pressure relief event occurs. Hence, monitoring and recordkeeping is important. The answer often comes in the form of a control device, typically plumbing the vent stream to a carbon unit for vapor recovery.



Rising Stem Gate Valve Drawing

Note the location of moving parts with the valve stem and gate and the adjacent seals, which is where the leaks may occur.

Reasons for leaks to occur are often related to improper tightening during installation.

Note the packing gland, this is the feature for which the first attempt to repair is made. The packing gland is tightened, similar to what would be done for a dripping faucet. If tightening the packing gland doesn't work, the seals are typical replaced (again, just like a dripping faucet in a home).

There is a lot of concern in the regulations about failing valves and the lack of success in repairs, so several months of repeat inspections are required to approve a repair.



Photo - Cut Away of Gate Valve

Upper orange fitting is seal, which is the location of greatest concern. However, there should also be concern for the match of the valve body with the adjacent piping.



Photo - Power Actuated Ball Valve

The moving parts all will be related to the shaft of the stem. Do not worry about the drive apparatus, only the flange connections and seals around the hydraulic part of the valve.



Centrifugal Pump Section Drawing

See the location of the suction throat, impeller, seal and shaft. The potential leak areas are the seal and shaft assemblies, and the flanged connections.



Centrifugal Pump Photo

See the red arrow for the potential leak location related to the pump seals. Other potential leak locations exist in the photo related to the flanged connections above the pump.

# Useful Web Sites (recommended as examples, not officially endorsed)

- http://www.gouldspumps.com
  - Technews /Pump Fundamentals /Pump Application Guide
- http:// www.redwhitevalveusa.com
   Technical Observations valve failures
- http://air.ingersoll-rand.com
   Air System Information compressors