

SUMMARY OF ADOPTED CHAPTER 117 REVISIONS

RECENT HISTORY OF CHAPTER 117 NITROGEN OXIDES (NO_x) RULES FOR HOUSTON/GALVESTON (HGA)

- 89% NO_x reduction for stationary sources adopted 12/6/00
- Changed to 88% NO_x reduction on 9/26/01
 - Revised the electric utility emission specification for attainment demonstration (ESAD)
 - Added ESADs for stationary diesel engines

WHAT ARE THE CHAPTER 117 CHANGES ADOPTED ON 12/13/02?

- Replace existing 88% ESADs with 80% ESADs in HGA
- Three ESADs were revised which were not targeted initially by the proposed 80% ESADs:
 - lightweight aggregate kilns
 - wood-fired boilers
 - liquid-fired boilers at minor sources
- Final ESADs depended on:
 - modeling
 - reductions in highly-reactive volatile organic compounds (HRVOC)
- Ammonia monitoring for units with SCR or SNCR in HGA
 - Material balance from CEMS & ammonia (NH₃) feed data
 - Monitor slip stream & convert to nitric oxide
 - Monitor using stain tubes
 - Other methods (see EPA's website at www.epa.gov/ttn/emc/cem.html)
- Prohibition of circumvention language for HGA
 - Allowance deductions for changes at an ESAD unit which increase NO_x at a non-ESAD unit
 - Once-in, always-in for major sources
 - Once-in, always-in for units not qualifying for the low annual capacity factor ESAD
- Add NH₃ limits for regional electric utilities (east/central Texas)
 - 10 ppmv ammonia limit was inadvertently left out of the 4/19/00 rule adoption
 - This limit represents a maximum rate under good engineering practice
 - Necessary due to concerns about increased ammonia emissions resulting from installation of NO_x controls
 - The rule adoption corrects the inadvertent omission of an ammonia limit
 - Existing rules require testing for ammonia (only if SCR or SNCR is used)
 - The standard is not difficult to meet
 - Alternate ammonia limit is available if needed; no EPA review required because the ammonia limit is not part of the SIP