

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Air Permits Division**

**New Source Review (NSR) Boilerplate Special Conditions**

This information is maintained by the Chemical NSR Section and is subject to change. Last update was made September 2015. These special conditions represent current NSR boilerplate guidelines and are provided for informational purposes only. The special conditions for any permit or amendment are subject to change through TCEQ case-by-case evaluation procedures [30 TAC 116.111(a)]. Please contact the appropriate Chemical NSR Section management if there are questions related to the boilerplate guidelines.

**Fugitives**

**28M**

**Piping, Valves, Connectors, Pumps, Agitators, and Compressors - 28M**

1. Except as may be provided for in the Special Conditions of this permit, the following requirements apply to the above-referenced equipment:
  - A. The requirements of paragraphs F and G shall not apply (1) where the VOC has an aggregate partial pressure or vapor pressure of less than 0.5 pounds per square inch, absolute (psia) at 100F or at maximum process operating temperature if less than 100°F or (2) where the operating pressure is at least 5 kilopascals (0.725 psi) below ambient pressure. Equipment excluded from this condition shall be identified in a list or by one of the methods described below to be made readily available upon request.

The exempted components may be identified by one or more of the following methods:

- (1) piping and instrumentation diagram (PID);
  - (2) a written or electronic database or electronic file;
  - (3) color coding;
  - (4) a form of weatherproof identification; or
  - (5) designation of exempted process unit boundaries.
- B. Construction of new and reworked piping, valves, pump systems, and compressor systems shall conform to applicable American National Standards Institute (ANSI), American Petroleum Institute (API), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), or equivalent codes.
  - C. New and reworked underground process pipelines shall contain no buried valves such that fugitive emission monitoring is rendered impractical. New and reworked buried connectors shall be welded.
  - D. To the extent that good engineering practice will permit, new and reworked valves and piping connections shall be so located to be reasonably accessible for

leak-checking during plant operation. Difficult-to-monitor and unsafe-to-monitor valves, as defined by Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 115 (30 TAC Chapter 115), shall be identified in a list to be made readily available upon request. The difficult-to-monitor and unsafe-to-monitor valves may be identified by one or more of the methods described in subparagraph A above. If an unsafe-to-monitor component is not considered safe to monitor within a calendar year, then it shall be monitored as soon as possible during safe-to-monitor times. A difficult-to-monitor component for which quarterly monitoring is specified may instead be monitored annually.

- E. New and reworked piping connections shall be welded or flanged. Screwed connections are permissible only on piping smaller than two-inch diameter. Gas or hydraulic testing of the new and reworked piping connections at no less than operating pressure shall be performed prior to returning the components to service or they shall be monitored for leaks using an approved gas analyzer within 15 days of the components being returned to service. Adjustments shall be made as necessary to obtain leak-free performance. Connectors shall be inspected by visual, audible, and/or olfactory means at least weekly by operating personnel walk-through.

Each open-ended valve or line shall be equipped with an appropriately sized cap, blind flange, plug, or a second valve to seal the line. Except during sampling, both valves shall be closed. If the isolation of equipment for hot work or the removal of a component for repair or replacement results in an open ended line or valve, it is exempt from the requirement to install a cap, blind flange, plug, or second valve for 72 hours. If the repair or replacement is not completed within 72 hours, the permit holder must complete either of the following actions within that time period;

- (1) a cap, blind flange, plug, or second valve must be installed on the line or valve;  
or
- (2) the open-ended valve or line shall be monitored once for leaks above background for a plant or unit turnaround lasting up to 45 days with an approved gas analyzer and the results recorded. For all other situations, the open-ended valve or line shall be monitored once by the end of the 72 hours period following the creation of the open ended line and monthly thereafter with an approved gas analyzer and the results recorded. For turnarounds and all other situations, leaks are indicated by readings of 500 ppmv and must be repaired within 24 hours or a cap, blind flange, plug, or second valve must be installed on the line or valve.

- F. Accessible valves shall be monitored by leak-checking for fugitive emissions at least quarterly using an approved gas analyzer. Sealless/leakless valves (including, but not limited to, welded bonnet bellows and diaphragm valves) and relief valves equipped with a rupture disc upstream or venting to a control device are not required to be monitored. For valves equipped with rupture discs, a pressure-sensing device shall be installed between the relief valve and rupture disc to monitor disc integrity. All leaking discs shall be replaced at the earliest opportunity but no later than the next process shutdown.

A check of the reading of the pressure-sensing device to verify disc integrity shall be performed at least quarterly and recorded in the unit log or equivalent. Pressure-sensing devices that are continuously monitored with alarms are exempt from recordkeeping requirements specified in this paragraph.

The gas analyzer shall conform to requirements listed in Method 21 of 40 CFR part 60, appendix A. The gas analyzer shall be calibrated with methane. In addition, the response factor of the instrument for a specific VOC of interest shall be determined and meet the requirements of Section 8 of Method 21. If a mixture of VOCs are being monitored, the response factor shall be calculated for the average composition of the process fluid. A calculated average is not required when all of the compounds in the mixture have a response factor less than 10 using methane. If a response factor less than 10 cannot be achieved using methane, then the instrument may be calibrated with one of the VOC to be measured or any other VOC so long as the instrument has a response factor of less than 10 for each of the VOC to be measured.

- G. Except as may be provided for in the Special Conditions of this permit, all pump, compressor and agitator seals shall be monitored with an approved gas analyzer at least quarterly or be equipped with a shaft sealing system that prevents or detects emissions of VOC from the seal. Seal systems designed and operated to prevent emissions or seals equipped with an automatic seal failure detection and alarm system need not be monitored. Seal systems that prevent emissions may include (but are not limited to) dual pump seals with barrier fluid at higher pressure than process pressure or seals degassing to vent control systems kept in good working order.

Submerged pumps or sealless pumps (including, but not limited to, diaphragm, canned, or magnetic-driven pumps) may be used to satisfy the requirements of this condition and need not be monitored.

- H. Damaged or leaking valves, connectors, compressor seals, agitator seals, and pump seals found to be emitting VOC in excess of 10,000 parts per million by volume (ppmv) or found by visual inspection to be leaking (e.g., dripping process fluids) shall be tagged and replaced or repaired. A first attempt to repair the leak must be made within 5 days. Records of the first attempt to repair shall be maintained. A leaking component shall be repaired as soon as practicable, but no later than 15 days after the leak is found. If the repair of a component would require a unit shutdown, the repair may be delayed until the next scheduled shutdown. All leaking components which cannot be repaired until a scheduled shutdown shall be identified for such repair by tagging. At the discretion of the TCEQ Executive Director or designated representative, early unit shutdown or other appropriate action may be required based on the number and severity of tagged leaks awaiting shutdown.
- I. Records of repairs shall include date of repairs, repair results, justification for delay of repairs, and corrective actions taken for all components. Records of instrument monitoring shall indicate dates and times, test methods, and instrument readings.

The instrument monitoring record shall include the time that monitoring took place for no less than 95% of the instrument readings recorded. Records of physical inspections shall be noted in the operator's log or equivalent.

- J. Fugitive emission monitoring required by an applicable New Source Performance Standard (NSPS), 40 CFR Part 60, or an applicable National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS), 40 CFR Part 61, may be used in lieu of Items F through I of this condition.
- K. Compliance with the requirements of this condition does not assure compliance with requirements of NSPS or NESHAPS and does not constitute approval of alternate standards for these regulations.