

## Rule Interpretation Memos for 30 TAC 115, Water Separation

- ! [Determination of applicable requirements when claiming an exemption under §115.137\(b\)\(1\), \(2\), \(3\), or \(4\)](#) [October 10, 1996 ]
- ! [Determination of applicable requirements when claiming an exemption under §115.137\(a\)\(3\) or \(c\)\(4\)](#) [ October 14, 1996]
- ! [Applicability of gunbarrels to the Water Separation Rules](#) [October 18, 1996 ]
- ! [Determination of applicability for water separators to Vent Gas Control rules](#) [October 10, 1996 ]
- ! [Determine what constitutes sufficient recordkeeping which "...demonstrates continuous compliance with the applicable exemption criteria...", as required by §115.136\(a\)\(1\) and §115.136\(b\)\(1\), when claiming exemption under §115.137\(a\)\(2\) and §115.137\(b\)\(3\) respectively](#) [September 13, 1997]
- ! [Determination of applicability for DAF systems](#) [April 1, 1997]
- ! [Determination of whether "skimmer pits" are subject to any requirements under 30 TAC Chapter 115](#) [July 15, 1997]
- ! [Determination of whether emissions from filter maintenance activities are subject to any requirements under 30 TAC Chapter 115](#) [July 21, 1997 ]
- ! [Determination of applicability of Water Separation rules to a VOC water separator used for groundwater remediation.](#) [June 23, 1998]
- ! [In §115.137\(a\)\(3\) does the term "exterior surface cleanup water" apply to vessels cleaned inside building?](#) [October 21, 1999]

Last Modified: October 21, 1999

## Rule Interpretation Summary Form

### REQUEST:

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <input type="checkbox"/> State Regulation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30 TAC 115, §115.131-139	Description: General Volatile Organic Compound Sources Water Separation
Interpretation Request:	
Determination of any applicable monitoring, testing, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements when claiming any exemptions in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, Section (§)115.137(b)(1),(2),(3), and (4) (30 TAC 115.137[b]([1], [2], [3], and [4])).	

### DETERMINATION:

Summary of Request:
What monitoring, testing, recordkeeping, requirements have to be completed to claim exemptions in §115.137(b)(1), (2), (3), (4)?
Determination:
<p><b>When claiming an exemption under §115.137(b)(1);</b>  the monitoring requirements are: None;  the recordkeeping requirements are: §115.136(b)(1) and §115.136(b)(4);  the testing requirements are: None; and  the reporting requirements are: None.</p> <p><b>When claiming the exemption under §115.137(b)(2);</b>  the monitoring requirements are: §115.136(b)(1);  the recordkeeping requirements are: §115.136(b)(1) and §115.136(b)(4);  the testing requirements are: None; and  the reporting requirements are: None.</p> <p><b>When claiming the exemption under 115.137(b)(3);</b>  the monitoring requirements are: §115.136(b)(1) and §115.136(b)(3);  the recordkeeping requirements are: §115.136(b)(1), §115.136(b)(3), and §115.136(b)(4);  the testing requirements are: §115.135(b)(5); and  the reporting requirements are: None.</p> <p><b>When claiming the exemption under §115.137(b)(4);</b>  the monitoring requirements are: None;  the recordkeeping requirements are: §115.136(b)(1), and §115.136(b)(4);  the testing requirements are: None; and  the reporting requirements are: None.</p> <p>Note: For permitting purposes in the Title V Permit, some of the above requirements might be classified differently according to Operating Permits Division guidance. For example, a recordkeeping requirement might also be listed as a monitoring requirement.</p>

## Rule Interpretation Summary Form

***REQUEST:***

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <input type="checkbox"/> State Regulation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30 TAC 115, §115.136, §115.137	Description: Water Separation
Interpretation Request:	
Determination of any applicable monitoring and recordkeeping requirements in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, Section (§)115.136 (30 TAC 115.136) when claiming the exemptions in §§115.137(a)(3) and (c)(4).	

***DETERMINATION:***

Summary of Request:
<p>The Operating Permits Division staff requested clarification/opinion of regulations in 30 TAC 115.</p> <p>Are volatile organic compound (VOC) water separators claiming the exemptions in §§115.137(a)(3) and (c)(4), subject to any of the requirements in §115.136 (relating to Monitoring and Recordkeeping Requirements)?</p>
Determination:
<p>After review by the Rule Interpretation Team, the team concurred with the following determination made by the Engineering Services Section:</p> <p>VOC water separators claiming the exemption in §115.137(a)(3) are subject to the recordkeeping requirements of §115.136(a)(1) and §115.136(a)(4). For VOC water separators claiming the exemption in §115.137(c)(4), there are no recordkeeping requirements.</p>

## Rule Interpretation Summary Form

**REQUEST:**

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <input type="checkbox"/> State Regulation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30 TAC 115, §§115.112-119, §§115.131-139	Description: General Volatile Organic Compound Sources Storage of Volatile Organic Compounds Water Separation
Interpretation Request:	
Determination of whether "gun barrels" should be classified as tanks or volatile organic compound (VOC) water separators.	

**DETERMINATION:**

Summary of Request:
<p>The Operating Permits Division requested the following question with respect to a determination of applicability for a gun barrel.</p> <p>Are gun barrels used at oil and gas producing sites, to be considered as a VOC water separator subject to the regulations in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC, 115.131-139), Sections (§§)115.131-139 (relating to Water Separation) or as a storage tank subject to the regulations 30 TAC §§115.112-119 (relating to Storage of VOCs)?</p>
Determination:
<p>Gun barrels should be considered as water separators and are subject to the water separation rules stated in 30 TAC §§115.131-139. In rare situations, a gun barrel may perform the storage of VOC containing liquids. If a gun barrel is used in this manner, then it should be considered a storage tank or container and would then be subject to Storage of VOC rules stated in §§115.112-119.</p>

## Rule Interpretation Summary Form

**REQUEST:**

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <input type="checkbox"/> State Regulation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30 TAC 115	Description: Vent Gas Control
Interpretation Request:	
Determination of whether a vent on a volatile organic compound (VOC) water separator should be considered a VOC process vent for purposes of determining applicability of Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 115 (30 TAC 115).	

**DETERMINATION:**

Summary of Request:
The Operating Permits Division requested clarification/opinion on the applicability of the Vent Gas Control Rule, under 30 TAC 115 to control emissions from VOC water separators used exclusively in conjunction with the production of crude oil or condensate in accordance with §§115.137(b)(1) and (c)(1), in near nonattainment and attainment counties, identified in §§115.137(b) and (c).
Determination:
After review by the Rule Interpretation Team, the team concurred with the following determination made by the Engineering Services Section:  Emissions from VOC water separators are subject to the Water Separation rules stated in 30 TAC 115.131 - 139. If a VOC water separator is exempted from the Water Separation rules, it is not subject to the Vent Gas Control rules stated in 30 TAC §115.121 - 129.

## Rule Interpretation Summary Form

**REQUEST:**

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <input type="checkbox"/> State Regulation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30 TAC 115, §§ 115.131-139	Description: Subchapter B: General Volatile Organic Compound Sources Water Separation
Interpretation Request:	
Determine what constitutes sufficient recordkeeping which "...demonstrates continuous compliance with the applicable exemption criteria...", as required by § 115.136(a)(1) and § 115.136(b)(1), when claiming exemption under § 115.137(a)(2) and § 115.137(b)(3) respectively.	

**DETERMINATION:**

Summary of Request:
Determine what constitutes sufficient record keeping which "...demonstrates continuous compliance with the applicable exemption criteria...", as required by § 115.136(a)(1) or § 115.136(b)(1), when claiming exemption under § 115.137(a)(2) or § 115.137(b)(3) respectively.
Determination:
<p>The Rule Interpretation Team (RIT) has identified three ways to demonstrate continuous compliance with the low vapor pressure exemption:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The records specified in § 115.136(a)(1) or § 115.136(b)(1), may demonstrate that each volatile organic compound (VOC) handled, processed, or stored has an individual true vapor pressure (TVP) less than the applicable exemption level.</li> <li>2) The owner/operator may demonstrate that the aggregate partial pressure of the VOC in the wastewater is less than the applicable exemption level. The demonstration may be made by testing or calculations.</li> </ol> <p>If compliance is demonstrated through testing, repetitive testing should be conducted such that the highest range of aggregate VOC partial vapor pressure will be measured over time. Testing conducted at least as frequently as the rate of turnover of the separator (defined as the liquid volume contained by the separator divided by the volumetric rate of liquid throughput) is adequate to show continuous compliance with the exemption.</p> <p>Testing should be conducted in accordance with §115.135, Testing Requirements. All samples from the separator should be taken from the region of liquid which contains the highest concentration of VOCs. In general, this would be a top sample. Engineering Services made a determination (Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission [TNRCC] memorandum dated August 31, 1994) which specified that samples should be taken within the top 6 inches of the liquid surface, because this is the liquid from which the emissions are generated.</p> <p>If compliance is demonstrated through calculations, the owner/operator must be able to show that the VOCs will remain dissolved in the water rather than separating. The owner/operator's electing to use this approach should contact Field Operations staff to ensure that sufficient records will be developed and maintained.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) The owner/operator may seek approval for an alternate method via the Alternate Means of Control (AMOC) process, as allowed by § 115.133 and § 115.910.</li> </ol>

## Rule Interpretation Summary Form

***REQUEST:***

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <input type="checkbox"/> State Regulation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Description:
30 TAC 115, §§115.131-139	Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds Subchapter B: Water Separation
Interpretation Request:	
Determination of applicability of Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 115 (30 TAC 115) Water Separation rules to Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) water treatment systems.	

***DETERMINATION:***

Summary of Request:
Baker & Botts, L.L.P. requested the Rule Interpretation Team (RIT) determine the applicability of the 30 TAC 115 Water Separation rules, Sections 115.131-139, to dissolved air flotation (DAF) water treatment units.
Determination:
Control requirements of the Water Separation rules, Sections 115.131-139, are not applicable to dissolved air flotation water treatment systems.

## Rule Interpretation Summary Form

**REQUEST:**

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <u>  </u> State Regulation: <u>  X  </u>
30 TAC 115, §§ 115.131-139, §§ 115.140-147	Description: Subchapter B: General Volatile Organic Compound Sources Water Separation and Industrial Wastewater
Interpretation Request:	
Determine if emissions from skimmer pits are subject to any requirements under Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 115?	

**DETERMINATION:**

Summary of Request:
Determine if emissions from skimmer pits are subject to any requirements under 30 TAC Chapter 115?
Determination:
Skimmer pits are subject to either the <i>Water Separation Rules</i> (§§ 115.131 - 139) or the <i>Industrial Wastewater Rules</i> (§§ 115.140 - 149), depending on their source category and geographic location, under 30 TAC Chapter 115.
Please note there are exemptions in § 115.137 and § 115.147 that could exempt skimmer pits from the control requirements of § 115.132 and § 115.142.



## Rule Interpretation Summary Form

**REQUEST:**

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <input type="checkbox"/> State Regulation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30 TAC 115, §§ 115.131-139, §§ 115.140-147	Description: Subchapter B: General Volatile Organic Compound Sources Water Separation and Industrial Wastewater
<b>Interpretation Request:</b>	
When wastewater is generated from the maintenance or cleaning of filters, do the emissions from the wastewater have any requirements under Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 115, particularly related to volatile organic compound (VOC) Water Separation Sections (§ 115.131-139) and the Industrial Wastewater Sections (§ 115.140-149)?	

**DETERMINATION:**

<b>Summary of Request:</b>
When wastewater is generated from the maintenance or cleaning of filters and routed to a VOC water separator, do the emissions from the wastewater have any requirements under 30 TAC Chapter 115, particularly related to VOC Water Separation Sections (§ 115.131-139) and the Industrial Wastewater Sections (§ 115.140-149)?
<b>Determination:</b>
Wastewater resulting from filter maintenance activities and routed to a VOC water separator is categorically exempt from the Industrial Wastewater rules, but is subject to the Water Separation rules, §§ 115.131 - 139, except as provided by § 115.137.

# Rule Interpretation Summary Form

**REQUEST:**

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: <u>  </u> State Regulation: <u>  X  </u>
30 TAC Chapter 115 § 115.131	Description: Subchapter B: General Volatile Organic Compound Sources Water Separation
Interpretation Request:	
Determination of applicability of Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, §§ 115.131-139 (30 TAC §§ 115.131-139), to a volatile organic compound (VOC) water separator used in groundwater remediation.	

**DETERMINATION:**

Determination:
A VOC water separator is subject to the Water Separation Rules (§§ 115.131-139) under 30 TAC Chapter 115. However, if a VOC water separator is used <u>solely</u> to separate VOC's that are recovered from a groundwater remediation project, then the separator is exempt under 30 TAC §§ 115.137(a)(3), (b)(5), and (c)(4).

Bibliography

*Revisions to the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Ozone Air Pollution*, July 24, 1996

Recorded State testimony from 1971 to 1980

The EPA guidance document, *The Control of Refinery Vacuum Producing System, Wastewater Separators and Processing Unit Turnarounds* published October 1977

The EPA Control Technology Center guidance document for *Industrial Wastewater Volatile Organic Compound Emissions* of January 1990

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

Current TNRCC Chapter 327, 334, and 335 definitions

## Air Rule Interpretation Summary Form

Code Number	R5-131.010
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In §115.137(a)(3) does the term “exterior surface cleanup water” apply to vessels cleaned inside buildings?	October 21, 1999
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Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: __      State Regulation: __
30 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 115, §§ 115.131-139	Description: Subchapter B: General Volatile Organic Compound Sources Division 3: Water Separation
Interpretation Request:	
In Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (Tex. Admin. Code) § 115.137(a)(3), does the term “exterior surface cleanup waters” include water used to clean the exterior surfaces of process vessels located inside a building, or is this exemption limited to the cleaning of outdoor surfaces?	
Determination:	
The exemption is not limited to outdoor cleaning operations, thus it can be used when equipment inside a building is being cleaned as long as the cleanup water only contacts the outside and not the inside of the vessel or process equipment. Note that this exemption is only intended for surfaces not normally in contact with process streams containing VOC.	

Bibliography:

20 Tex. Reg., 9189 (1995). [November 3, 1995]

Title 30 Tex. Admin. Code, Chapter 115 (July 21, 1999)