

**FINAL AMENDMENTS TO EQUIPMENT LEAK REGULATIONS AND NEW  
STANDARDS FOR SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS MANUFACTURING  
INDUSTRY AND PETROLEUM REFINERIES**

**FACT SHEET**

**ACTION**

- On November 8, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated amendments to new source performance standards (NSPS) for existing synthetic organic chemicals manufacturing industry (SOCMI) and petroleum refineries. EPA also promulgated standards for SOCMI sources and petroleum refineries constructed, reconstructed or modified after November 7, 2006, which was the date of the proposed regulation.
- The current NSPS regulations were originally promulgated in October 1983 (SOCMI) and May 1984 (refineries). The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review and revise the standards of performance to reflect improvements in methods for reducing emissions. Today's action makes amendments to the original NSPS regulations and sets new standards for SOCMI and petroleum refinery industries to satisfy the statutory requirement.
- The current NSPS regulations are amended to clarify certain definitions and requirements and reduce the burden on industry to comply with the original regulations. These amendments will apply to those SOCMI and refinery facilities that are already subject to the NSPS regulations.
- The new NSPS regulations reflect changes to the standard based on work practice improvements demonstrated by SOCMI and refinery facilities since the original NSPS was established in 1983 and 1984 respectively. These standards will apply to SOCMI or refinery facilities newly built, reconstructed or modified after November 7, 2006.
- Final amendments to the current SOCMI NSPS, 40 CFR part 60, subpart VV, affecting existing SOCMI facilities, this regulation:
  - Changes the applicability to only sources that commence construction, reconstruction, or modification after January 5, 1981, and on or before November 7, 2006;
  - Clarifies the definition of "process unit";
  - Provides alternative compliance options for batch processes;
  - Clarifies monitoring of new equipment added after a process unit initially starts up;
  - Adds requirements for containers in closed-purge sampling systems;
  - Modifies monitoring requirements for pumps for which repair has been delayed; and
  - Adds examples considered to be first attempts at repair of pumps.
- Final amendments to the current petroleum refinery NSPS, 40 CFR part 60, subpart

GGG, affecting existing petroleum refineries, this regulation:

- Changes applicability to only sources that commence construction, reconstruction, or modification after January 4, 1983, and on or before November 7, 2006;
  - Adds definition of “asphalt”;
  - Exempts open-ended line provisions for lines containing asphalt; and
- Final NSPS for the new SOCFI facilities, 40 CFR part 60, subpart VVa, this regulation:
    - Applies to sources that commence construction, reconstruction, or modification after November 7, 2006;
    - Lowers leak definitions for pumps (2,000 parts per million (ppm)) and valves (500 ppm);
    - Adds monitoring of connectors at 500 ppm;
    - Adds monitoring of the sealed end of open-ended lines and valves at 500 ppm;
    - Adds recordkeeping requirements for all monitored equipment; and
    - Adds calibration drift assessment.
  - Final NSPS for the new refineries, 40 CFR part 60, subpart GGGa, this regulation:
    - Applies to sources that commence construction, reconstruction, or modification after November 7, 2006;
    - Lowers leak definitions for pumps (2,000 ppm) and valves (500 ppm);
    - Adds recordkeeping requirements for all monitored equipment; and
    - Adds calibration drift assessment.

## **BACKGROUND**

- On October 18, 1983, EPA issued a final action that required monitoring of specific types of equipment using EPA Method 21 or other equivalent monitoring techniques to detect and repair leaks at SOCFI sources. This action established the NSPS for equipment leaks of VOC from SOCFI.
- The 1983 NSPS reduced emissions of VOC found leaking from pumps, valves, compressors, pressure relief devices, sampling connection systems, open-ended lines, and flanges or other connectors in VOC service.
- On May 30, 1984, EPA issued a final action that required petroleum refineries to comply with the 1983 SOCFI NSPS for leak detection and repair practices. This action established the NSPS for equipment leaks of VOC from petroleum refineries.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download the final amendments and new standards from EPA’s website, go to “Recent Actions” at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.
- Today’s promulgated amendments, new standards, and other background information are also available either electronically in EPA’s electronic public

docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0699). The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center is (202) 566-1742.

- For more information about the promulgated amendments and new standards, contact Karen Rackley at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0634 or by e-mail at [rackley.karen@epa.gov](mailto:rackley.karen@epa.gov).