

FACT SHEET

Restructuring of the Stationary Source Audit Program

ACTION

- On June 5, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule to restructure the stationary source audit program. This program provides requirements for reviewing compliance tests to assure that the sample analyst or the field testing personnel are capable of measuring emissions for compliance with Clean Air Act requirements. Audit samples must be analyzed along with the samples collected to test for regulatory compliance. This analysis gives helps the regulatory agency determine whether they should trust their compliance test results.
- The changes proposed in this rule would allow accredited providers to supply the samples used in the audit and would require sources to obtain and use samples from the accredited providers instead of from EPA, as is the current practice. In addition, this action would move requirements for audits from EPA's rules laying out individual emissions test methodologies to generalized requirements in the general provisions of the Clean Air Act.
- The general provisions establish a common set of requirements that relate to implementing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, the Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. This action also would add essential requirements for an audit sample to the General Provisions. This would allow the program to accommodate technical innovations as they became available without requiring a revision to EPA's rules.
- This action proposes minimum requirements for:
 - the audit samples,
 - the companies that prepare and distribute the audit samples known as accredited audit sample providers, and
 - the third-party organizations that accredit and monitor the performance of the audit sample providers.
- This action also would shift the burden of obtaining an audit sample from the state and local air agencies responsible for assuring that a facility is complying with its Clean Air Act requirements to the industrial facility.

BACKGROUND

- Audit samples are samples whose true value is known to the supplier but not to the user. These samples are analyzed alongside the samples collected in the field during the compliance test to evaluate the quality of the data.

- In the past, there were no private companies who were supplying stationary source audit samples, so EPA provided them free of charge to regulatory agencies. Over the past few years with the emergence of field sampling and laboratory accreditation programs, there has been an increasing need for such samples, and a number of private providers have emerged. As a result, it is no longer necessary for EPA to supply audit samples.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's website on the Internet under "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.
- For more information about today's rulemaking, contact Candace Sorrell at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1064 or sorrell.candace@epa.gov.