

FACT SHEET

Proposed Amendments to the Standards of Performance for Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels (Including Petroleum Liquid Storage Vessels)

ACTION

- On October 7, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the 1987 Standards of Performance for Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels (Including Petroleum Liquid Storage Vessels) for which Construction, Reconstruction, or Modification Commenced after July 23, 1984 (NSPS Kb).
- The 1987 NSPS set emission standards for volatile organic compounds (VOC) emitted from storage vessels containing volatile organic liquids. It also set storage vessel inspection procedures that, in certain circumstances, require storage vessels to be emptied and degassed to be inspected.
 - For some storage vessels (tanks) in certain circumstances, the standards require the owner or operator to empty and degas the tank so that an inspection can be conducted from inside the tank (required at least once every 10 years or when the contents of the tank changes, whichever was sooner).
 - The owner or operator would enter the tank and conduct visual inspections for holes, tears, or other openings.
 - Emptying and degassing events are undesirable primarily because owners or operators must take the storage vessel completely out-of-service; extra storage capacity is needed and air emissions are created during these events.
- On June 29, 1999, EPA finalized the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for storage vessels that, in certain circumstances, allow for less cumbersome in-service inspections, without emptying and degassing the storage tank.
- Today's proposal would allow owners or operators of storage vessels, subject to the 1987 NSPS and equipped with either an external floating roof (EFR) or internal floating roof (IFR), to elect to comply with the requirements specified in the 1999 NESHAP in lieu of the 1987 standards subject to certain caveats and exceptions for monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting.
- This proposed action provides owners or operators with the flexibility to choose the appropriate standard. This proposal does not change the underlying compliance dates under the 1987 NSPS.

BACKGROUND

- The 1987 Standards of Performance for Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels (including Petroleum Liquid Storage Vessels) for which Construction, Reconstruction, or Modification Commenced after July 23, 1984, is applicable to large storage tanks, which store volatile organic liquids across a variety of industries, such as petroleum refineries, chemical plants and portions of the oil and gas industry.

- Since 2018, EPA has received a significant uptick in the number of owners or operators requesting alternatives to conducting out-of-service inspections of storage tanks subject to the 1987 NSPS.
- EPA has received more than 300 requests from facilities seeking permission to conduct in-service inspections to demonstrate compliance with the 1987 NSPS Kb. These one-off requests are time consuming and burdensome.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comments for 45 days after the proposal is published in the *Federal Register*.
- Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0372 may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
 - Send comments by email to a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ- OAR-2020-0372.
- Out of an abundance of caution for members of the public and our staff, the EPA Docket Center and Reading Room are closed to the public, with limited exceptions, to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Our Docket Center staff will continue to provide remote customer service via email, phone, and webform.
 - We encourage the public to submit comments via <https://www.regulations.gov/> or email, as there may be a delay in processing mail and faxes. Hand deliveries and couriers may be received by scheduled appointment only.
 - For further information on EPA Docket Center services and the current status, please visit us online at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.
 - For additional information, including the full EPA public comment policy, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>
- To request a public hearing on this proposal, please contact Neil Feinberg at feinberg.stephen@epa.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the proposed rule notice from EPA's website at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/volatile-organic-liquid-storage-vessels-including-petroleum-storage>.
- Today's action and other background information are also available electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov/>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system.