

FACT SHEET

EPA Method 320 – Measurement of Vapor Phase Organic and Inorganic Emissions by Extractive Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy

ACTION

- On February 22nd, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed routine corrections and updates to EPA Method 320, a procedure used in various Clean Air Act regulations to measure air pollution at industrial sources.
- EPA promulgated Method 320 on June 14, 1999. It has not been updated or revised since then. EPA takes this routine step periodically to improve consistency in measurement methods and data quality.
- The proposed revisions primarily correct typographical and technical errors, and update procedures that the Agency has deemed acceptable to use. The proposed revisions apply to industries that are already subject to various testing provisions as part of air pollution regulations.
- The proposed revisions improve the quality of data and give source testers the flexibility to use newly approved alternative procedures at no additional cost to industry.
- These revisions maintain environmental protections while ensuring consistent implementation and quality of the measurement results across emissions sources and facilities.
- Many of the proposed revisions were brought to EPA's attention by regulated sources and end-users like environmental consultants and compliance professionals.

BACKGROUND

- Method 320 procedures are promulgated in Clean Air Act 40 CFR parts 60 and 63. EPA promulgated Method 320 along with the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry (40 CFR Part 63, subpart LLL) on June 14, 1999 (64 FR 31898) under section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) as amended.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from the EPA Emissions Measurement Center website at the following address

- EPA will accept comments on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. Please identify comments with Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0491. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:
 - www.regulations.gov: Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
 - Email: aandrdocket@epa.gov.
 - Fax: (202) 566-9744.
 - Mail: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460.
 - Hand Delivery: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West (Air Docket), 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 3334, Washington, DC. Such deliveries are accepted only during the normal hours of operation (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays), and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under Proposed Methods at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/emc>.
- For further information about the rulemaking, contact David Nash at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-9425.