

Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York
Title 6. Department of Environmental Conservation
Chapter III. Air Resources
Subchapter A. Prevention and Control of Air Contamination and Air Pollution
Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Refs & Annos
Currentness

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Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector
Subpart 203-1. Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Activities General Provisions

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Subpt. 203-1, Refs & Annos
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Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector (Refs & Annos)
Subpart 203-1. Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Activities General Provisions (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-1.1

Section 203-1.1. General Applicability

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) This Part applies to owners and operators of equipment and components that are associated with sources in the following oil and natural gas sectors:

- (1) Oil and natural gas production
- (2) Oil, condensate and produced water separation and storage
- (3) Natural gas storage
- (4) Natural gas gathering and boosting
- (5) Natural gas transmission and compressor stations
- (6) Natural gas metering and regulating stations

(b) This Part does not apply to distributing gas utilities or to equipment and components located downstream of a city gate.

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6 NYCRR 203-1.2

Section 203-1.2. Measurements, abbreviations and acronyms

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(a) ASME: American Society of Mechanical Engineers

(b) CH₄: Methane

(c) FID: Flame Ionization Detector

(d) LDAR: Leak Detection and Repair

(e) OGI: Optical Gas Imaging

(f) PTE: Potential to Emit

(g) psig: pounds per square inch, gauge

(h) scfh: standard cubic feet per hour

(i) scfm: standard cubic feet per minute

(j) tpy: tons per year

(k) VOC: volatile organic compound

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6 NYCRR 203-1.3

Section 203-1.3. Definitions

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(a) For the purpose of this Part, the general definitions of Parts 200 and 201 of this Title apply unless they are inconsistent with subdivision 203-1.3(b).

(b) For the purpose of this Part, the following definitions also apply:

(1) “Centrifugal compressor” means equipment that increases the pressure of natural gas by centrifugal action through an impeller.

(2) “Centrifugal compressor seal” means a wet or dry seal around the compressor shaft where the shaft exits the compressor case.

(3) “City gate” means a point or measuring where custody transfer occurs between a natural gas transmission system pipeline company/operator and a distribution system company/operator.

(4) “Component” is meant to include but is not limited to; a valve, fitting, flange, threaded-connection, process drain, stuffing box, pressure-vacuum valve, pressure-relief device, pipes, seal fluid system, diaphragm, hatch, sight-glass, meter, open-ended line, well casing, natural gas actuated pneumatic device, natural gas actuated pneumatic pump, or reciprocating compressor rod packing or compressor seals.

(5) “Condensate” means liquid hydrocarbons that were originally in the gaseous phase in the reservoir and liquids recovered by surface separation from natural gas.

(6) “Continuous bleed” means the continuous venting of natural gas from a gas actuated pneumatic device to the atmosphere by design.

(7) “Critical component” means any component that would require the shutdown of a critical process unit if that component was shutdown or disabled.

(8) “Critical process unit” means a process unit or group of components at such unit that must remain in service because of their importance to the overall process. A critical process unit is required to continue to operate, has no equivalent equipment to replace it, cannot be bypassed, and for which it is technically infeasible to repair leaks from that process unit without shutting it down and opening the process unit to the atmosphere.

(9) “Emulsion” means any mixture of crude oil, condensate, or produced water with varying quantities of natural gas entrained in the liquids.

(10) “Equipment” means any stationary or portable machinery, object, or contrivance covered by this Part.

(11) “Fuel gas” means gas generated at a petroleum refinery or petrochemical plant and that is combusted separately or in any combination with any type of gas.

(12) “Fuel gas system” means any system that supplies natural gas as a fuel source to on-site natural gas actuated equipment other than a vapor control device.

(13) “Hoop stress” means the stress in a pipe wall, acting circumferentially in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the pipe and produced by the pressure of the fluid in the pipe.

(14) “Intermittent bleed” means the intermittent venting of natural gas from a gas actuated pneumatic device to the atmosphere by design.

(15) “Leak or fugitive leak” means the unintentional release of emissions at a rate greater than or equal to the leak thresholds specified in this Part.

(16) “Leak detection and repair” or “LDAR” means the inspection of components to detect leaks of VOC and CH₄ and the repair of those components with leak rates above the standards and within the timeframes specified in this Part.

(17) “Metering Station” means a station designed for the continuous measurement of the quantity of natural gas being transported in a pipeline and may include simultaneous analysis of natural gas quality.

(18) “Natural gas” means a naturally occurring mixture or process derivative of hydrocarbon and non-hydrocarbon gases. Its constituents include the greenhouse gases CH₄ and carbon dioxide, and may include natural gas liquids.

(19) “Natural gas gathering and boosting station” means all equipment and components associated with moving natural gas to a natural gas processing plant, or transmission pipeline, or distribution pipeline.

(20) “Natural gas transmission compressor station” means all equipment and components located within a facility fence line associated with moving natural gas from production fields or natural gas processing plants through natural gas transmission pipelines, or within natural gas underground storage fields.

(21) “Natural gas transmission pipeline” means a pipeline, other than a gathering line, that:

(i) transports gas from a gathering line or storage facility to a distribution center or storage facility, or directly to a large volume user that is not downstream from a distribution center; or

(ii) operates at a hoop stress of twenty (20) percent or more of specific minimum yield strength; or

(iii) transports gas within a storage field.

(22) “Natural gas underground storage” or “Reservoir” means all equipment and components, including the surface components of underground storage wells, associated with the temporary subsurface storage of natural gas in any underground reservoir, natural or artificial cavern or geologic dome, sand or stratigraphic trap, whether or not previously occupied by or containing oil or natural gas.

(23) “Non-associated gas” means natural gas that is not produced as a byproduct of crude oil production and may or may not be produced with condensate.

(24) “Oil” means crude petroleum oil and all other hydrocarbons, regardless of API gravity, that are produced at the wellhead in liquid form by ordinary production methods and that are not the result of condensation of gas.

(25) “Optical gas imaging or OGI” means using an instrument, such as a thermal infrared camera, that makes emissions visible that may otherwise be invisible to the naked eye.

(26) “Pigging” means using devices or instruments known as ‘pigs’ to perform various cleaning, clearing, maintenance, inspection, dimensioning, process and pipeline testing operations on new and existing pipelines.

(27) “Pneumatic device” means an automation device that uses natural gas or compressed air to control a process.

(28) “Pneumatic pump” means a device that uses natural gas or compressed air to power a piston or diaphragm in order to circulate or pump liquids.

(29) “Portable pressurized separator” means a pressure vessel, that can be moved from one location to another without having to be dismantled, and is capable of separating and storing crude oil, condensate, or produced water at the temperature and pressure of the separator required for sampling.

- (30) “Portable tank” means a tank that can be moved from one location to another without having to be dismantled.
- (31) “Pressure vessel” means any hollow container used to hold gas or liquid and rated, as indicated by an ASME pressure rating stamp, and operated to contain normal working pressures of at least 15 pounds per square inch, gauge (psig) without continuous vapor loss to the atmosphere.
- (32) “Production” means all activities associated with the production or recovery of emulsion, crude oil, condensate, produced water, or natural gas at facilities to which this Part applies.
- (33) “Produced water” means water recovered from an underground reservoir as a result of crude oil, condensate, or natural gas production that may be recycled, disposed, or re-injected into an underground reservoir.
- (34) “Reciprocating natural gas compressor” means equipment that increases the pressure of natural gas by positive displacement of a piston in a compression cylinder that is powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor.
- (35) “Reciprocating natural gas compressor rod packing” means a seal comprised of a series of flexible rings in machined metal cups that fit around the reciprocating compressor piston rod to limit the amount of compressed natural gas that vents into the atmosphere.
- (36) “Reciprocating natural gas compressor seal” means any device or mechanism used to limit the amount of natural gas that vents from a compression cylinder into the atmosphere.
- (37) “Regulating Station” means a station that is placed along a pipeline to reduce the pressure of the gas to the appropriate operating pressure for each system.
- (38) “Sales Gas” means the raw natural gas, after processing to remove liquid petroleum gas, condensate and carbon dioxide. Sales Gas usually consists mainly of CH₄ and ethane.
- (39) “Separator” means a tank used to physically separate the oil, gas, and water produced simultaneously from a well.
- (40) “Separator and tank system” means the first separator in a crude oil or natural gas production system and any tank or sump connected directly to the first separator.
- (41) “Storage Vessel” means any container constructed primarily of non-earthen materials used for the purpose of storing, holding, or separating emulsion, crude oil, condensate, or produced water and that is designed to operate below a normal operating pressure of 15 psig.
- (42) “Successful repair” means tightening, adjusting, or replacing equipment or a component for the purpose of stopping or reducing fugitive leaks below the minimum leak detection threshold or emission flow rate standard specified in this Part.

(43) “Total Hydrocarbon” means organic compounds of hydrogen and carbon whose densities, boiling points, and freezing points increase as their molecular weights increase. Although composed of only two elements, hydrocarbons exist in a variety of compounds, because of the strong affinity of the carbon atom for other atoms and for itself.

(44) “Vapor collection system” means equipment and components installed on compressors, pressure vessels, separators, tanks, or sumps including piping, connections, and flow-inducing devices used to collect and route emission vapors to a processing, sales gas, or fuel gas system, or to a vapor control device.

(45) “Vapor control device” means equipment used to reduce hydrocarbon emissions.

(46) “Vapor control efficiency” means the ability of a vapor control device to reduce emissions, expressed as a percentage, that can be estimated by calculation or by measuring the total hydrocarbon concentration or mass flow rate at the inlet and outlet of the vapor control device.

(47) “Vent or venting” means the intentional or automatic release of natural gas into the atmosphere from components, equipment, or activities described in this Part.

(48) “Well” means a boring in the earth for the purpose of the following:

- (i) Exploring for or producing oil or gas.
- (ii) Injecting fluids or gas for stimulating oil or gas recovery.
- (iii) Re-pressuring or pressure maintenance of oil or gas reservoirs.
- (iv) Disposing of oil field waste gas or liquids.
- (v) Injection or withdrawal of gas from an underground storage facility.

(49) “Well Site” means the well pad and access roads, equipment storage and staging areas, vehicle turnarounds, and any other areas directly or indirectly impacted by activities involving a well.

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6 NYCRR 203-2.1

Section 203-2.1. Storage Vessels

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Applicability: The requirements of this section apply to all storage vessels located at oil and natural gas well sites with a PTE greater than or equal to six (6) tpy of VOC.

(b) Control requirements.

(1) Storage vessels installed prior to January 1, 2023 must have a vapor control efficiency of ninety-five (95) percent.

(2) Storage vessels installed on or after January 1, 2023 must not vent to the atmosphere.

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6 NYCRR 203-2.2

Section 203-2.2. Natural Gas Actuated Pneumatic Devices and Pumps

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

(a) Applicability: The requirements of this section apply to natural gas actuated pneumatic devices and pumps located at oil and natural gas well sites.

(b) Continuous bleed natural gas pneumatic devices:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2023, continuous bleed natural gas pneumatic devices shall not vent natural gas to the atmosphere except as described in 203-2.2(b)(2)(i) and shall comply with 203-2.2(b)(2)(ii)-(v) and the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7.

(2) Continuous bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices installed prior to January 1, 2023 may be used provided they meet all of the following requirements as of January 1, 2023:

(i) No device shall vent natural gas at a rate greater than six (6) standard cubic feet per hour (scfh) when the device is idle and not actuating.

(ii) All devices must be clearly marked with a permanent tag that identifies the vented emissions rate as less than or equal to six (6) scfh.

(iii) All devices must be tested by January 1, 2024 and then tested annually, no later than thirteen (13) months and no earlier than eleven (11) months from the previous test using a direct measurement method (high volume sampling, bagging, calibrated flow measuring instrument); and,

(iv) Any device with a measured emissions flow rate greater than six (6) scfh shall be successfully repaired within fourteen (14) days from the date of the initial emission flow rate measurement.

(v) The owner or operator shall maintain a record of the flow rate measurement and shall report the result to the Department within sixty (60) days after completed.

(c) Continuous bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices and pumps that need to be replaced or retrofitted to comply with the requirements specified shall do so by either:

(1) Collecting all vented natural gas using a vapor collection system as specified in Subpart 203-8; or,

(2) By using compressed air or electricity in lieu of natural gas to operate.

(d) Intermittent bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices: Beginning January 1, 2023, intermittent bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices shall comply with the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7 when the device is idle and not controlling.

(e) Natural gas actuated pneumatic pumps: Beginning January 1, 2023, natural gas actuated pneumatic pumps shall not vent natural gas to the atmosphere and shall comply with the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7.

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Subpart 203-2. Oil and Natural Gas Well Activities (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-2.3

Section 203-2.3. Metering and Regulating

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Metering and regulating components are subject to the LDAR requirements in Subpart 203-7.

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Subpart 203-3. Natural Gas Gathering Lines (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-3.1

Section 203-3.1. Storage Vessels

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Applicability: The requirements of this section apply to all storage vessels located at oil and natural gas well sites with a PTE greater than or equal to six (6) tpy of VOC.

(b) Control requirements

(1) Storage vessels installed prior to January 1, 2023 must have a vapor control efficiency of ninety-five (95) percent.

(2) Storage vessels installed on or after January 1, 2023 must not vent to the atmosphere.

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Subpart 203-3. Natural Gas Gathering Lines (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-3.2

Section 203-3.2. Natural Gas actuated Pneumatic Devices and Pumps

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

(a) Applicability: The requirements of this section apply to all natural gas actuated pneumatic devices and pumps located at gathering and boosting locations.

(b) Continuous bleed natural gas pneumatic devices:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2023, continuous bleed natural gas pneumatic devices shall not vent natural gas to the atmosphere except as described in 203-2.2(b)(2)(i) and shall comply with 203-3.2(b)(2)(ii)-(v) and the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7.

(2) Continuous bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices installed prior to January 1, 2023 may be used provided they meet all of the following requirements:

(i) No device shall vent natural gas at a rate greater than six (6) standard cubic feet per hour (scfh) when the device is idle and not actuating.

(ii) All devices must be clearly marked with a permanent tag that identifies the vented emissions rate as less than or equal to six (6) scfh.

(iii) All devices must be tested by January 1, 2024 and then tested annually, no later than thirteen (13) months and no earlier than eleven (11) months from the previous test using a direct measurement method (high volume sampling, bagging, calibrated flow measuring instrument); and,

(iv) Any device with a measured emissions flow rate greater than six (6) scfh shall be successfully repaired within fourteen (14) days from the date of the initial emission flow rate measurement.

(v) The owner or operator shall maintain a record of the flow rate measurement and shall report the result to the Department within sixty (60) days after completed.

(c) Continuous bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices and pumps which need to be replaced or retrofitted to comply with the requirements specified shall do so by either:

(1) Collecting all vented natural gas with the use of a vapor collection system as specified in Subpart 203-8; or,

(2) By using compressed air or electricity in lieu of natural gas to operate.

(d) Intermittent bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices: Beginning January 1, 2023, intermittent bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices shall comply with the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7 when the device is idle and not controlling.

(e) Natural gas actuated pneumatic pumps: Beginning January 1, 2023, natural gas actuated pneumatic pumps shall not vent natural gas to the atmosphere and shall comply with the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7.

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6 NYCRR 203-3.3

Section 203-3.3. Metering and Regulating

Effective: March 3, 2022

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(a) Metering and regulating components are subject to LDAR requirements in Subpart 203-7.

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Subpart 203-4. Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines and Compressor Stations (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-4.1

Section 203-4.1. Storage Vessels

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Applicability: The requirements of this section apply to all storage vessels located at oil and natural gas well sites with a PTE greater than or equal to six (6) tpy of VOC.

(b) Control requirements.

(1) Storage vessels installed prior to January 1, 2023 must have a vapor control efficiency of ninety-five (95) percent.

(2) Storage vessels installed on or after January 1, 2023 must not vent to the atmosphere.

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Subpart 203-4. Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines and Compressor Stations (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-4.2

Section 203-4.2. Natural Gas actuated Pneumatic Devices and Pumps

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

(a) Applicability: The requirements of this section apply to natural gas actuated pneumatic devices and pumps located at compressor stations.

(b) Continuous bleed natural gas pneumatic devices:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2023, continuous bleed natural gas pneumatic devices shall not vent natural gas to the atmosphere except as described in 203-2.2(b)(2)(i) and shall comply with 203-4.2(b)(2)(ii)-(v) and the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7.

(2) Continuous bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices installed prior to January 1, 2023 may be used provided they meet all of the following requirements as of January 1, 2023:

(i) No device shall vent natural gas at a rate greater than six (6) standard cubic feet per hour (scfh) when the device is idle and not actuating.

(ii) All devices must be clearly marked with a permanent tag that identifies the natural gas flow rate as less than or equal to six (6) scfh.

(iii) All devices must be tested by January 1, 2024 and then tested annually, no later than thirteen (13) months and no earlier than eleven (11) months from the previous test using a direct measurement method (high volume sampling, bagging, calibrated flow measuring instrument); and,

(iv) Any device with a measured emissions flow rate greater than six (6) scfh shall be successfully repaired within fourteen (14) days from the date of the initial emission flow rate measurement.

(v) The owner or operator shall maintain a record of the flow rate measurement and shall report the result to the Department within sixty (60) days after completed.

(c) Continuous bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices and pumps which need to be replaced or retrofitted to comply with the requirements specified shall do so by either:

(1) Collecting all vented natural gas with the use of a vapor collection system as specified in Subpart 203-8; or,

(2) By using compressed air or electricity in lieu of natural gas to operate.

(d) Intermittent bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices: Beginning January 1, 2023, intermittent bleed natural gas actuated pneumatic devices shall comply with the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7 when the device is idle and not controlling.

(e) Natural gas actuated pneumatic pumps: Beginning January 1, 2023, natural gas actuated pneumatic pumps shall not vent natural gas to the atmosphere and shall comply with the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7.

Credits

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N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 6, § 203-4.2, 6 NY ADC 203-4.2

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Subpart 203-4. Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines and Compressor Stations (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-4.3

Section 203-4.3. Centrifugal Compressors

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

(a) Applicability.

(1) The requirements of this section apply to centrifugal natural gas compressors located at natural gas transmission compressor stations, and natural gas underground storage facilities.

(2) The requirements of this section do not apply to centrifugal natural gas compressors that operate fewer than 200 hours over a rolling twelve (12) month period total provided that the owner or operator:

(i) Maintains a non-re-settable hour meter for operation, and

(ii) Maintains a record, for a minimum of five (5) years, of the operating hours per month, and

(iii) Provide a rolling twelve (12) month total calculation of hours to the Department once per year.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2023, centrifugal compressors with wet seals shall control the wet seal vent gas with the use of a vapor collection system as described in Subpart 203-8 or shall replace the wet seal with a dry seal.

(c) Beginning January 1, 2023, components on driver engines and compressors that use a wet seal or a dry seal shall comply with the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7, and;

(d) The compressor wet seal shall be measured annually by direct measurement (high volume sampling, bagging, calibrated flow measuring instrument) while the compressor is running at normal operating temperature in order to determine the wet seal emission flow rate using one of the following methods:

(1) Vent stacks shall be equipped with a meter or instrumentation to measure the wet seal emissions flow rate; or,

(2) Vent stacks shall be equipped with a clearly identified access port installed at a height of no more than six (6) feet above ground level or a permanent support surface for making wet seal emission flow rate measurements.

(3) If the measurement is not obtained because the compressor is not operating for the scheduled test date and the remainder of the inspection period, then testing shall be conducted within fourteen (14) days of resumed operation. The owner or operator shall maintain for at least five (5) years, and make available upon request by the Department, a copy of operating records that document the compressor hours of operation and run dates and a signed statement from the responsible official in order to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

(e) A compressor with a wet seal emission flow rate greater than three (3) scfm, or a combined flow rate greater than the number of wet seals multiplied by three (3) scfm, shall be successfully repaired within thirty (30) days of the initial flow rate measurement.

(1) An extension to the thirty (30) day deadline may be granted by the Department if the owner or operator can demonstrate that the parts or equipment required to make necessary repairs have been ordered and the owner or operator notifies the Department as specified in 203-10.3 to report the delay and provides an estimated time by which the repairs will be completed.

(f) If parts are not available to make the repairs, the wet seal shall be replaced with a dry seal no later than eighteen (18) months after the exceeding measurement is made.

(g) The owner or operator shall maintain for at least five (5) years, a record of the flow rate measurement and shall report the result to the Department within sixty (60) days after completed.

(h) A centrifugal natural gas compressor with a wet seal emission flow rate measured above the standard specified in subdivision 203-4.3(e) and which is a critical component, shall be successfully repaired by the end of the next scheduled process shutdown or within twelve (12) months from the date of the initial flow rate measurement, whichever is sooner.

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6 NYCRR 203-4.4

Section 203-4.4. Reciprocating Compressors

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Applicability.

(1) The requirements of this section apply to reciprocating natural gas compressors located at natural gas transmission compressor stations, and natural gas underground storage facilities.

(2) The requirements of this section do not apply to reciprocating natural gas compressors that operate fewer than 200 hours over a rolling twelve (12) month period total, provided that the owner or operator:

(i) Maintains a non-resettable hour meter on the engine, and

(ii) Maintains a record, for a minimum of five (5) years, of the operating hours per month, and

(iii) Provides a rolling twelve (12) month total calculation of hours to the Department once per year.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2023, components on driver engines and compressors shall comply with the LDAR requirements specified in Subpart 203-7, except for the rod packing components subject to subdivision 203-4.4(c) and,

(c) The compressor rod packing or seal emission flow rate through the rod packing or seal vent stack shall be measured annually by direct measurement (high volume sampling, bagging, calibrated flow measuring instrument) while the compressor is running at normal operating temperature using one of the following methods:

(1) Vent stacks shall be equipped with a meter or instrumentation to measure the rod packing or seal emissions flow rate; or,

(2) Vent stacks shall be equipped with a clearly identified access port installed at a height of no more than six (6) feet above ground level or a permanent support surface for making individual or combined rod packing or seal emission flow rate measurements.

(3) If the measurement is not obtained because the compressor is not operating for the scheduled test date and the remainder of the inspection period, then testing shall be conducted within seven (7) days of resumed operation. The owner or operator shall maintain, and make available upon request by the Department, a copy of operating records that document the compressor hours of operation and run dates and a signed statement from the responsible official in order to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

(d) Beginning January 1, 2023, compressor vent stacks used to vent rod packing or seal emissions shall be controlled with the use of a vapor collection system as specified in Subpart 203-8; or,

(e) A compressor with a rod packing or seal with a measured emission flow rate greater than two (2) scfm, or a combined rod packing or seal emission flow rate greater than the number of compression cylinders multiplied by two (2) scfm, shall be successfully repaired within thirty (30) days from the date of the initial emission flow rate measurement.

(1) An extension to the thirty (30) day deadline may be granted by the Department if the owner or operator can demonstrate that the parts or equipment required to make necessary repairs have been ordered and the owner or operator notifies the Department as specified in Section 203-10.3 to report the delay and provides an estimated time by which the repairs will be completed.

(f) The owner or operator shall maintain for at least five (5) years a record of the flow rate measurement and shall report the result to the Department within sixty (60) days after completed.

(g) A reciprocating natural gas compressor with a rod packing or seal emission flow rate measured above the standard specified as a critical component shall be successfully repaired by the end of the next scheduled process shutdown or within twelve (12) months from the date of the initial flow rate measurement, whichever is sooner.

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6 NYCRR 203-4.5

Section 203-4.5. Pipeline or Compressor Station Blowdown

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Applicability: Blowdown activity at compressor stations and transmission pipelines greater than ten thousand (10,000) standard feet cubed (scf).

(b) Requirements.

(1) Planned blowdowns.

(i) Provide notification to the Department and appropriate local authorities forty-eight (48) hours in advance of a blowdown event; the notification shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

('a') Location

('b') Date

('c') Time and duration

('d') Contact person

('e') Reason for blowdown

('f') Estimated volume of release

(ii) If any of the information reported prior to the blowdown changed during or after the blowdown, another notification to the Department and appropriate local authorities shall be made with the updates no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the blowdown.

(2) Unplanned blowdowns.

(i) Provide notification to the Department and appropriate local authorities within thirty (30) minutes of blowdown or as soon as it is safe to do so. The notification shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

('a') Location

('b') Date

('c') Time and duration

('d') Contact person

('e') Reason for blowdown

('f') Estimated volume of release

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6 NYCRR 203-4.6

Section 203-4.6. Pigging

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Applicability: Pigging activity along natural gas pipelines.

(b) Requirements.

(1) Record and report pigging activities and estimated natural gas loss to the Department by March 31st of each year for the previous calendar year. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) Location of activity.

(ii) Date of each activity.

(iii) Estimated volume of release for each activity.

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Subpart 203-5. Natural Gas Underground Storage Facilities

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Subpt. 203-5, Refs & Annos
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Subpart 203-5. Natural Gas Underground Storage Facilities (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-5.1

Section 203-5.1. Natural Gas Storage Monitoring Requirements

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

- (a) Applicability: The requirements of this section apply to natural gas underground storage facilities.
- (b) Natural gas underground storage facility sources are subject to the LDAR requirements as specified in Subpart 203-7.

Credits

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Subpart 203-5. Natural Gas Underground Storage Facilities (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-5.2

Section 203-5.2. Metering and Regulating

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Metering and regulating components are subject to the LDAR requirements in Subpart 203-7.

Credits

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Subpart 203-6. City Gate

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Subpt. 203-6, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

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Subpart 203-6. City Gate (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-6.1

Section 203-6.1. Metering and Regulating

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Applicability: The requirements of this section apply to all metering and regulating components at the City Gate.

(b) Metering and regulating components are subject to the LDAR requirements in Subpart 203-7.

Credits

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Subpart 203-7. Leak Detection and Repair

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Subpt. 203-7, Refs & Annos
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Subpart 203-7. Leak Detection and Repair (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-7

Section 203-7. Leak Detection and Repair

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

- (a) The requirements of this Subpart apply to the components subject to LDAR within this Part.
- (b) The requirements of this Subpart do not apply to the following:
- (1) Components that are buried below ground. The portion of well casing that is visible above ground is not considered a buried component.
 - (2) Components used to supply compressed air to equipment or instrumentation.
 - (3) Components operating under a negative gauge pressure or below atmospheric pressure.
 - (4) Temporary components used for general maintenance and used fewer than fifteen (15) days over a twelve (12) month period if the owner or operator maintains for at least five (5) years, and can make available at the request of the Department, a record of the date when the components were installed and removed.
 - (5) Pneumatic devices or pumps that use compressed air or electricity to operate.
 - (6) A compressor rod packing which is subject to annual emission flow rate testing as specified in section 203-4.4 of this Part.

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6 NYCRR 203-7.1

Section 203-7.1. Leak Detection Monitoring Techniques

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

(a) All owners and operators opting to comply using EPA Method 21, Volatile Organic Compound Leaks at [40 CFR Part 60, appendix A-7](#) (see table 1, section 200.9 of this Title), must meet the following requirements:

(1) For the purposes of complying with the fugitive emissions monitoring program using EPA Method 21, a fugitive emission is defined as an instrument reading of 500 ppm CH₄ and VOC.

(2) For purposes of instrument capability, the fugitive emissions definition shall be 500 ppm or greater CH₄ and VOC using a Flame Ionization Detector (FID)-based instrument.

(3) If an analyzer other than a FID-based instrument is used, a site-specific fugitive emission definition must be developed by the owner or operator that would be equivalent to 500 ppm CH₄ and VOC using a FID-based instrument. Such site-specific fugitive emission definition is subject to approval by the Department.

(b) Optical gas imaging. All owners and operators opting to comply using OGI must meet the following requirements:

(1) OGI equipment must be capable of imaging gases in the spectral range for CH₄ and VOC in the potential fugitive emissions.

(2) Calibration and maintenance procedures must comply with those recommended by the manufacturer.

(c) Alternative techniques. The Department may approve the use of an alternative technique that may be used in lieu of, or in combination with, OGI, Method 21, or other previously approved alternative methods. A proposed alternative method must be able to demonstrate that it is capable of identifying leaks and that it is at least as effective as the leak detection methods achieved using Method 21 or OGI. Owners and operators seeking approval of an alternative technique must submit the following information to the Department:

(1) Describe the technology and, at a minimum, include information on:

- (i) Commercial availability of proposed alternative.
 - (ii) Other approved applications or uses.
 - (iii) Reliability (ability to detect emissions at a specified threshold and frequency, as well as identify or determine specific emission leak locations).
 - (iv) Capable of identifying leaks and is at least as effective as leak detection achieved using Method 21 or OGI demonstrated through field test data and modeling.
 - (v) Limitations/Restrictions (detection limits, weather/temperature/moisture, maximum/minimum operating parameters, other).
 - (vi) Data quality indicators for precision and bias.
 - (vii) Quality control and quality assurance procedures for proper operation.
 - (viii) Describe how the technology works.
 - (ix) How the technology quantifies emissions.
- (2) Description of use, maintenance and calibration.
- (i) Description of where, when and how the alternative technique will be used.
 - (ii) User guide.
 - (iii) Manufacturer-recommended maintenance and calibration.
 - (iv) Calibration process.
- (3) Process for recordkeeping.
- (i) Frequency of data measurements.
 - (ii) Data logging capabilities.

(4) Training documentation or program, including any ongoing support provided.

(5) Provide any documentation associated with field testing or modeling to demonstrate leak detection is at least as effective as that achieved using Method 21 or OGI.

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Subpart 203-7. Leak Detection and Repair (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-7.2

Section 203-7.2. LDAR Frequency

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

(a) For Oil and Natural Gas Wells wellheads and components subject to Subpart 203-2, each well site shall be inspected by OGI, Method 21 or similar approved alternative method:

(1) Semiannually, or

(2) One (1) time over twenty-four (24) months if using an approved alternative method which offers continuous monitoring.

(b) For Natural Gas Gathering and Boosting components subject to Subpart 203-3, each gathering and boosting station shall be inspected by OGI, Method 21 or similar approved alternative method:

(1) Quarterly, or

(2) One (1) time over twenty-four (24) months if using an approved alternative method which offers continuous monitoring.

(c) Natural Gas Transmission Compressor Station components subject to Subpart 203-4 shall be inspected by OGI, Method 21 or similar approved alternative method:

(1) Bimonthly, at least forty-five (45) days apart, or

(2) One (1) time over twelve (12) months if using an approved alternative method which offers continuous monitoring.

(d) Storage Facility components subject to Subpart 203-5 shall be inspected by OGI, Method 21 or similar approved alternative method:

(1) Bimonthly, at least forty-five (45) days apart, or

(2) One (1) time over twelve (12) months if using an approved alternative method which offers continuous monitoring.

(e) City Gate components subject to Subpart 203-6 shall be inspected by OGI, Method 21 or similar approved alternative method:

(1) Quarterly, or

(2) One (1) time over twelve (12) months if using an approved alternative method which offers continuous monitoring.

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Subpart 203-7. Leak Detection and Repair (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-7.3

Section 203-7.3. Repair of leaks

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

(a) Upon detection of a leak from any equipment or component subject to this Part, the owner or operator shall affix to that component a weatherproof, readily visible tag that identifies the date and time of leak detection. The tag shall remain affixed to the component until the following conditions are met:

(1) The leaking component has been successfully repaired or replaced; and,

(2) The component has been re-inspected utilizing one of the methods specified in Subpart 203-7.

(b) The owner or operator shall maintain for at least five (5) years, and make available upon request by the Department, a record of leaks identified and shall report to the Department within sixty (60) days after repair re-inspection as defined in 203-7.3(d) is complete. Records shall include the date that the leak was detected, location of leak, the date that the leak was repaired and any delays that occurred.

(c) Leaks shall be repaired within thirty (30) days of identification unless one of the conditions of 203-7(f) apply.

(d) Repaired leaks shall be re-inspected using the methods specified in 203-7 within fifteen (15) days of repair.

(e) Critical components or critical process units shall be successfully repaired by the end of the next process shutdown or within twelve (12) months from the date of initial leak detection, whichever is sooner.

(f) A delay of repair may be granted by the Department under the following conditions:

(1) The owner or operator can demonstrate that the parts or equipment required to make necessary repairs have been ordered. A delay of repair to obtain parts or equipment shall not exceed thirty (30) days, unless the owner or operator notifies the Department to report the delay and provides an estimated time by which the repairs will be completed, or

(2) A gas service utility can provide documentation, in a form suitable to the Department, that a system has been temporarily classified as critical to reliable public gas system operation as ordered by the utility's gas control office.

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Subpart 203-8. Vapor Collection Systems and Vapor Control Devices

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Subpt. 203-8, Refs & Annos
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Subpart 203-8. Vapor Collection Systems and Vapor Control Devices (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-8.1

Section 203-8.1. Vapor collection

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Beginning January 1, 2023, the following requirements apply to equipment that must be controlled using a vapor collection system and control device pursuant to the requirements specified in this Part.

(b) The vapor collection system shall direct the collected vapors to one of the following:

(1) A sales gas system; or,

(2) A fuel gas system.

(c) If no sales gas system or fuel gas system is available at the facility, the owner or operator must control the collected vapors by January 1, 2024 as follows:

(1) For facilities without an existing vapor control device, the owner or operator must install a new vapor control device as specified in section 203-8.1(d); or,

(2) For facilities currently operating an existing vapor control device that is required to control additional vapors as a result of this Part, if the device does not already meet the requirements specified in subdivision 203-8.1(d), the owner or operator must modify or replace the existing vapor control device to control vapors at the same efficiency or greater than that required in subdivision 203-8.1(d).

(d) Any vapor control device required in subdivision 203-8.1(c) must achieve at least 95 percent vapor collection control efficiency of total emissions and must meet all applicable federal and state requirements.

(e) Vapor collection systems and control devices may be taken out of service for up to thirty (30) days per rolling twelve (12) month period to perform maintenance while the facility continues to operate.

(1) A time extension to perform maintenance not to exceed fourteen (14) days per twelve (12) month period may be granted by the Department. The owner or operator is responsible for maintaining a record of the number of days per year that the vapor collection system or vapor control device is out of service and shall provide a record of such activity at the request of the Department.

(2) If an alternate vapor control device compliant with this section is installed prior to conducting maintenance and the vapor collection and control system continues to collect and control vapors during the maintenance operation consistent with the applicable standards specified in this Subpart, the event does not count towards the thirty (30) day limit.

(3) Vapor collection system and control device shutdowns that result from emergencies as defined in Section 201-1.5 of this Title are not subject to enforcement action, provided the equipment resumes normal operation immediately after the emergency and the requirements in Section 201-1.5 of this Title are met. Vapor collection system and control device shutdowns that result from utility power outages do not count towards the thirty (30) day limit for maintenance.

Credits

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N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 6, § 203-8.1, 6 NY ADC 203-8.1

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Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York
Title 6. Department of Environmental Conservation
Chapter III. Air Resources
Subchapter A. Prevention and Control of Air Contamination and Air Pollution
Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector
Subpart 203-9. Feasibility and Safety

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Subpt. 203-9, Refs & Annos
Currentness

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Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector (Refs & Annos)
Subpart 203-9. Feasibility and Safety (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-9

Section 203-9. Feasibility and Safety

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

- (a) A repair or replacement may not be delayed unless it results in the following:
- (1) a vented blowdown,
 - (2) a gathering and boosting station shutdown,
 - (3) a well shutdown,
 - (4) a well shut-in,
 - (5) rationale for continued operation is submitted to DEC to be later deemed technically infeasible or unsafe by the New York State Department of Public Service or other federal or state regulatory agency.
- (b) The repair or replacement delay may be extended until the earliest event listed below.
- (1) the next compressor station shutdown,
 - (2) the next gathering and boosting station shutdown,
 - (3) well shutdown,
 - (4) well shut-in,
 - (5) the next unscheduled, planned or emergency vent blowdown, or

(6) within one (1) year.

Credits

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Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector
Subpart 203-10. Reporting and Recordkeeping

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Subpt. 203-10, Refs & Annos
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Subpart 203-10. Reporting and Recordkeeping (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-10.1

Section 203-10.1. Baseline Report

Effective: March 3, 2022

Currentness

- (a) Applicability: This section applies to all sources as described in Section 203-1.1.
- (b) Owners or operators of components or processes subject to this Subpart must submit a report to the Department by March 31, 2023 or by March 31st of the year following initiation of operation.
- (c) The report shall be in a format approved by the Department and shall list the number and type of components, including but not be limited to the following:
- (1) separators
 - (2) storage vessels
 - (3) compressors
 - (4) gas drying systems
 - (5) pneumatic devices
 - (6) metering and regulating systems

Credits

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Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector (Refs & Annos)
Subpart 203-10. Reporting and Recordkeeping (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-10.2

Section 203-10.2. Recordkeeping

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Reciprocating Natural Gas Compressors.

(1) Maintain, for at least five (5) years from the date of each leak concentration measurement, a record of each rod packing leak concentration measurement found above the minimum leak threshold as defined in Section 203-4.4.

(2) Maintain, for at least five (5) years from the date of each emissions flow rate measurement, a record of each rod packing emission flow rate measurement.

(3) Maintain, for at least five (5) years a record that documents the date(s) and hours of operation a compressor is operated in order to demonstrate compliance with the rod packing leak concentration or emission flow rate measurement in the event that the compressor is not operating during a scheduled inspection.

(4) Maintain, for at least five (5) years, records that provide proof that parts or equipment required to make necessary repairs have been ordered and installed.

(b) Centrifugal Natural Gas Compressors.

(1) Maintain, for at least five (5) years from the date of each emissions flow rate measurement, a record of each wet seal emission flow rate measurement.

(2) Maintain, for at least five (5) years, a record that documents the date(s) and hours of operation a compressor is operated in order to demonstrate compliance with the wet seal emission flow rate measurement in the event that the compressor is not operating during a scheduled inspection.

(3) Maintain, for at least five (5) years, records that provide proof that parts or equipment required to make necessary repairs have been ordered and installed.

(c) Natural Gas Actuated Pneumatic Devices.

(1) Maintain, for at least five (5) years from the date of each emissions flow rate measurement, a record of the emission flow rate measurement

(d) Leak Detection and Repair.

(1) Maintain, for at least five (5) years from each inspection, a record of each LDAR inspection.

(2) Maintain, for at least five (5) years from the date of each inspection, component leak and repair documentation.

(3) Maintain records for at least five (5) years that provide proof that parts or equipment required to make necessary repairs have been ordered and installed.

(4) Maintain gas service utility records for at least five (5) years that demonstrate that a system has been temporarily classified as critical to reliable public gas operation throughout the duration of the classification period.

(e) Vapor Collection System and Vapor Control Devices.

(1) Maintain records for at least five (5) years that provide proof that parts or equipment required to make necessary repairs have been ordered and installed.

Credits

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Subpart 203-10. Reporting and Recordkeeping (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-10.3

Section 203-10.3. Reporting submissions and retention

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

(a) Reports shall be delivered to both the:

(1) Bureau Director, Bureau of Air Quality Planning, Division of Air Resources, 625 Broadway, Albany NY 12233, and

(2) The Regional Air Pollution Control Engineer in the corresponding Department Region in which the source is located.

(b) Source owners and operators must maintain reports for at least five (5) years and make them available to the Department upon request.

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Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector
Subpart 203-11. Severability

NYCRR Title 6, Ch. III, Subch. A, Pt. 203, Subpt. 203-11, Refs & Annos
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Part 203. Oil and Natural Gas Sector (Refs & Annos)
Subpart 203-11. Severability (Refs & Annos)

6 NYCRR 203-11

Section 203-11. Severability

Effective: March 3, 2022

[Currentness](#)

Each provision of this Part shall be deemed severable, and in the event that any provision of this Part is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Part shall continue in full force and effect.

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