

FACT SHEET

Amendments to *New Source Performance Standards Review for Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels*

ACTION

- On September 30, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final updates to the *Standards of Performance for Volatile Organic Liquid (VOL) Storage Vessels (Including Petroleum Liquid Storage Vessels)* resulting from its review of the new source performance standards (NSPS) required by the Clean Air Act (CAA). The EPA has finalized provisions to the NSPS that are applicable to storage vessels that commence construction, reconstruction or modification after October 4, 2023.
- The final rule will help to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other hazardous air pollutants. VOCs are a precursor to the formation of ground level ozone (or smog). This rule will help reduce health effects associated with air toxics and smog.
- In this final rulemaking action, the EPA requires air pollution controls for a wider range of storage vessels than is currently required in the existing NSPS. The NSPS was last formally reviewed in 1987.
- The EPA has also finalized VOC standards to reflect the best system of emissions reductions (BSER) for affected storage vessels.
 - The previous NSPS required 95% control efficiency.
 - The final rulemaking achieves an industrywide 98% control efficiency for VOCs at newly constructed, modified and reconstructed storage vessels.
- The EPA has finalized additional monitoring requirements for internal floating roofs to ensure continuous compliance with the standard.
- The EPA is setting modification requirements that apply to storage vessels that introduce new VOLs with vapor pressures greater than those historically stored. Modification requirements are established under the BSER for affected storage vessels.
- Through this rule revision, the EPA has also:
 - Revised monitoring and operating requirements for both floating roof and closed vent system control devices.
 - Implemented degassing emission controls for storage vessels.
 - Implemented revisions related to emissions during periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction.
 - Added requirements for electronic reporting.
 - Other technical improvements.

NSPS Review

- The CAA Section 111 requires the EPA to determine the BSER for the source category and the degree of emission limitation achievable through application of the BSER (taking into account the cost of achieving such reduction and any non-air quality health or environmental impact and energy requirements).

- The EPA must then issue standards of performance for new sources that reflect that level of stringency.
- The CAA Section 111 requires the EPA to, “at least every eight years review and, if appropriate, revise,” the NSPS. The EPA reviews available data and information to determine if the BSER has changed and, if so, proposes and finalizes revised standards to reflect such changes.

BACKGROUND

- On April 8, 1987, the EPA promulgated the *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).
 - NSPS Kb expanded the existing source category established under NSPS K (1977) and NSPS Ka (1980) to include VOL storage vessels.
- These standards require all new, modified and reconstructed storage vessels to control emissions of VOCs to the level achievable by the BSER, considering costs, non-air quality health, and environmental and energy impacts.
- NSPS Kb was established based on the BSER available at that time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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