

FACT SHEET

(Rev. 10/14/14)

Quality Assurance Requirements for Continuous Opacity Monitoring Systems at Stationary Sources

ACTION

- On May 16, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule which establishes quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures for continuous opacity monitoring systems (COMS) installed for compliance purposes.
- The rule requires daily instrument and status indicator checks, quarterly performance audits, annual zero alignment audits and corrective action for malfunctioning COMS.
- These procedures (referred to as Procedure 3) will apply to COMS used to demonstrate continuous compliance with opacity standards in EPA issued or approved regulations.
- The deadline for complying with Procedure 3 is no later than November 12, 2014.
- The first calibration error test and other quarterly auditing requirements must be conducted no later than March 31, 2015 (i.e., within the first calendar quarter of the compliance deadline for Procedure 3).
- The first annual zero alignment must be performed no later than December 31, 2015 (i.e., within the calendar year of the compliance deadline for Procedure 3).
- The deadline to perform the first zero alignment audits with the COMS off the stack (for sources that use an external zero device) is no later than December 31, 2017 (i.e., within three years of the compliance deadline for Procedure 3).
- Although daily system checks must be performed, only the periods in which the COMS was out-of-control based on the daily checks and the corrective actions taken to bring the COMS back in control must be included in the Data Assessment Report (DAR); individual results of all daily system checks are not required to be provided in the DAR.

BACKGROUND

- On February 14, 2012, the EPA published both a direct final and parallel proposed Procedure 3 rule. EPA received comments on the proposed rule and after considering them, incorporated changes as appropriate in this final rule.
- Procedure 3 will enhance monitoring performance and improve a facility's ability to take immediate action to correct opacity issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under Recent Actions at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.
- For further information about the rulemaking, contact Lula Melton at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2910.