

## FACT SHEET

### CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR METHOD 303 CERTIFICATION TRAINING

#### ACTION

- On February 12, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a direct final rule to better define the requirements associated with conducting Method 303 training courses. Method 303 is an air pollution test method used to determine the visible emissions (VE) from coke ovens.
- This action adds additional language that clarifies the criteria used by the EPA to determine the competency of training providers, but does not change the requirements for conducting the test method.
- Specifically, Method 303 is being revised to define administrative and recordkeeping requirements that training providers must follow including:
  - clarifying the minimum training course requirements, and detailing the recordkeeping requirements that the training provider must follow in order to attain Administrator approval;
  - clarifying that VE readers must demonstrate a perfect score on the recertification exam;
  - updating and expanding the criteria used to determine who is qualified to participate on the proficiency test panel;
  - adding criteria for training certificates, submittal of this information, and recordkeeping; and
  - defining conditions for suspension of the training provider's approval by the Administrator.
- The EPA is publishing this action as a direct final rule because the changes are noncontroversial and no adverse comments are anticipated. If adverse comments are received, the EPA will address the comments in a subsequent final rule based on the parallel proposal that also is being issued in conjunction with these direct final rule amendments.
- These direct final rule technical amendments will be effective 60 days after publication of the direct final rule in the *Federal Register*.

#### BACKGROUND

- On October 27, 1993, EPA published a test method for determining visible emissions (VE) from coke ovens (*i.e.*, Method 303).
- This method is used to evaluate VE from the following by-product coke oven battery sources: charging systems during charging; doors, topside port lids and offtake systems

on operating coke ovens; and collecting mains. Method 303 is also applicable to qualifying observers for visually determining the presence of VE from by-product coke ovens.

- After receiving inquiries regarding the procedures for qualifying observers, EPA is expanding on those procedures to further define and clarify.

### **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://www3.epa.gov/ttn/emc/new.html>.
- Other places to read the proposed rule and background information (use Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0492):
  - **EPA's electronic public docket and comment system** at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
  - **The EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room** (for hard copies).
    - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in EPA WJC West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.
    - Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.
    - You will have to show photo identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. Any materials you bring with you will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. You will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
- For further information about the rulemaking, contact Kim Garnett at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1158 or [garnett.kim@epa.gov](mailto:garnett.kim@epa.gov).