

Compliance Advisory
April 21, 2025
Regulation 13, Rule 5 Emissions Monitoring

This Compliance Advisory is provided to inform you about activities of the Air District that may affect your organization's operation. It will assist you in your efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable air pollution rules and regulations.

ATTENTION: OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF INDUSTRIAL HYDROGEN PLANTS SUBJECT TO REGULATION 13, RULE 5 (RULE 13-5)

SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE OPTIONS FOR MONITORING EMISSIONS FROM ATMOSPHERIC VENTS AT INDUSTRIAL HYDROGEN PLANTS

The purpose of this advisory is to outline certain compliance options for monitoring emissions of regulated pollutants from atmospheric vents at Industrial Hydrogen Plants (IHPs). As defined in Section 13-5-202 of Rule 13-5, an atmospheric vent is any opening at an IHP where a gas or gases are continuously or periodically discharged during IHP operations, including but not limited to boiler feed water vents. These atmospheric vents are subject to the monitoring requirements specified in Sections 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502, which require owners and operators of such vents to monitor emissions of total organic compounds, methane and greenhouse gases (collectively referred to herein as "regulated pollutants") on a daily basis.

Approval of Alternative Monitoring Protocols for Vents Not Emitting Regulated Pollutants:

- Sections 13-5-601.2 and 13-5-602.2 of Rule 13-5 provide that owners and operators of IHP atmospheric vents can use alternative methods to comply with the Rule's monitoring requirements, if approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO).
- The APCO will consider approving an alternative method of complying with Rule 13-5's monitoring requirements if the owner/operator can demonstrate to the APCO's satisfaction that an atmospheric vent will have zero emissions of a regulated pollutant when operating in a certain process configuration and/or processing certain feedstocks. If the owner/operator can demonstrate that emissions of the regulated pollutant will be zero under such process configurations and/or feedstocks, the APCO will consider authorizing an alternative monitoring protocol for that pollutant consisting of documenting that the equipment continues to operate under such process configurations and/or feedstocks. If approved, the APCO will treat documented operation under such process configurations and/or feedstocks as confirmation that the vent's emissions of that regulated pollutant are zero.
- The APCO will consider approval of an alternative monitoring protocol for an IHP atmospheric vent under the following conditions:
 - The owner/operator must monitor emissions of regulated pollutants from the vent for at least one year under the requirements of Sections 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502 in order to assess emissions of regulated pollutants under the existing process configuration and/or feedstock.
 - If monitoring during this one-year verification period confirms that the vent has not emitted a regulated pollutant under the existing process configuration and/or feedstock, the owner/operator may request approval of an alternative monitoring protocol whereby it monitors emissions of that pollutant by confirming on a daily basis that the process configuration and/or feedstock remain unchanged. Requests may be sent to the APCO at compliance@baaqmd.gov.

- The proposed monitoring protocol must include provisions that require the owner/operator to (i) check the process configuration and/or feedstock at least once per day to confirm that they remain unchanged; (ii) document the results of the daily check in writing; and (iii) maintain the documentation of the daily check in a log book or other suitable form for inspection for a period of at least five years, and make it available to the APCO upon request.
- The proposed alternative monitoring protocol can apply for monitoring of any individual regulated pollutant or multiple regulated pollutants, as appropriate based on emissions evaluated during the one-year verification period.
- If the APCO, in its sole discretion, gives written approval for the alternative monitoring protocol, the owner/operator may use the alternative monitoring protocol to comply with the daily monitoring requirements under Sections 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502, as applicable. As long as the alternative monitoring protocol confirms and documents that the process configuration and/or feedstock remain unchanged, the owner/operator may record and report emissions as zero.
- If at any point the process configuration and/or feedstock change, the owner/operator must resume monitoring under 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502. The owner/operator may request approval of an alternative monitoring protocol for the new process configuration and/or feedstock, but it must be based on an additional year of verification sampling demonstrating no regulated pollutant emissions under the new process configuration and/or feedstock.
- The APCO may revoke approval of the alternative monitoring protocol at any time by giving written notice of the revocation to the owner/operator. If approval is revoked, the owner/operator must resume monitoring in accordance with the requirements of Sections 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502.
- The foregoing does not preclude the APCO from considering other types of alternative monitoring protocols where appropriate.

Monitoring Emissions From Closed Vents:

- For atmospheric vents that are closed for extended periods of time and are not expected to emit any regulated pollutants during those periods, the owner/operator of the vent may comply with the monitoring requirements in Sections 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502 by demonstrating that the vent is in fact closed and not emitting any regulated pollutants.
- To confirm that the vent is not emitting any regulated pollutants, the owner operator must (i) physically check at least once per day that the vent is closed to the atmosphere; and (ii) monitor flow to the vent to confirm that the vent is closed.
- The Air District will treat confirmation that a vent is closed to the atmosphere throughout an entire day and that there is no flow going to it pursuant to the requirements specified in this compliance advisory as sufficient to comply with the daily monitoring requirements in Sections 13-5-501 and 13-5-502. Owners and operators of vents that are confirmed closed for the entire day may record and report emissions from such vents as zero for that day.
- To comply with the recordkeeping requirements in Section 13-5-506 with respect to a closed vent, the owner/operator must maintain records of (i) the daily physical check to confirm that the vent is closed and (ii) electronic 1-second trend graphs of the vent's flow monitoring data. The owner and/or operator must maintain these records in a form suitable for inspection for a period of at least five years and make them available to the APCO upon request.
- The closed-vent monitoring approach outlined in this compliance advisory cannot be used for any day where flow monitoring is inoperative during any part of the day, unless a backup flow monitor is used and shows no flow out of the vent. In those cases where there is no primary

or backup flow monitoring, the owner/operator will be subject to all of the requirements of Sections 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502, including the requirement to sample emissions from the vent.

- If a closed vent is opened during any part of a day, the owner/operator must monitor emissions from the vent during the period it is open using appropriate emissions monitoring equipment as required by Sections 13-5-501 and/or 502, including continuous monitoring of temperature, pressure, flow rate and flow volume and collection of a sample while the vent is open.
- Owners and operators of closed vents that do not conduct monitoring in accordance with the procedures outlined herein remain subject to Sections 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502. The Air District will enforce those monitoring requirements as specified in the regulation.

Procedures For Failure to Conduct Daily Sampling:

- An IHP owner/operator that fails to comply with the daily monitoring requirements under Sections 13-5-501 and/or 13-5-502 is required to submit a deviation notice pursuant to the requirements of its Title V permit.
- This includes any non-compliance that results from a failure to conduct sampling to allow the owner/operator to determine a vent's daily emissions. If the owner/operator believes that sampling system failure was the cause, it can request breakdown relief pursuant to Sections 1-430 through 1-434 of Regulation 1. The APCO may grant the request if it meets the requirements for breakdown relief under those provisions. These requirements include (but are not limited to) that the failure was unforeseeable, that it was not the result of intent, neglect, or disregard of any air pollution control law, rule or regulation, and that it was not the result of improper maintenance.

For further assistance, please contact the Air District at:

- For compliance assistance, call the Compliance Assistance Hotline, at (415) 749-4999, or compliance@baaqmd.gov.
- For questions about this advisory, contact Supervisory Air Quality Specialist, Jeremy Kearns, at (415) 793-6610, or jkearns@baaqmd.gov.



Jeff Gove
Director of Enforcement