

Guidance for Determining Maximum Allowable Operating Rates for an Emission Performance Test and Requesting a Retest

A June 4, 1980, Texas Air Control Board (TACB) memo from Mr. James Draper, P.E. to the TACB regional supervisors, team leaders and all source evaluation personnel established guidance for determining maximum allowable operating conditions during performance tests and when the agency should request a company to retest. Representatives from Field Operations Division, Compliance Support Division, Environmental Planning and Implementation Division, Chief Engineer's Office, and Air Permits Division provide this guidance for determining maximum allowable operating conditions during compliance performance testing and when the agency should request a company to retest. When using this guidance consideration should be given to the type of process, the specific operating parameter(s), and how close the actual emissions are to the regulatory limit in determining that a retest should or should not be required. Each test event should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

This is guidance provided for use by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is for determining maximum allowable operating conditions in pretest planning activities, during test observations, and in the review of test reports.

1. When a source is being tested for a state and/or federal regulatory requirement, the operating rates during an individual test run cannot vary by more than +/- 10% from the average operating rate of the run. The average operating rate of each run cannot vary more than +/- 10% from the average operating rate of all test runs. This requirement is not applicable for the purposes of a continuous emissions monitoring systems (CEMS) certification relative accuracy test audit (RATA), unless an emission performance test is being performed concurrently with the RATA.
2. In the absence of state and/or federal regulatory requirements establishing specific operating rate limitations, the actual average operating rate during a state and/or federal regulatory performance test should be the maximum allowable operating rate.
3. In the absence of state and/or federal regulatory requirements addressing a facility operating above the maximum allowable operating rate, retesting should be required to demonstrate compliance with the applicable state and/or regulatory requirements, if the facility operates above the maximum allowable operating rate.

This guidance supersedes the James Draper memo revised June 4, 1980.