



REPORTING BREAKDOWN CONDITIONS

As the owner or operator of air pollution control equipment or continuous emission monitoring system equipment, you are required to take certain actions when you have a breakdown. The State of California and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) have various laws and regulations to protect the public's health and the environment. The APCD realizes there may be equipment failures or malfunctions that prevent you from maintaining compliance with emission limitations or in-stack monitoring requirements. When failures or malfunctions occur, you can continue to operate for a limited time under a breakdown condition in accordance with District Rule 32, Breakdown Conditions; Emergency Variances.

What Is A Breakdown Condition?

A breakdown condition is an unforeseeable failure or malfunction of 1) air pollution control equipment causing a violation of any emission limitation or restriction; or 2) any in-stack continuous monitoring equipment. Failure or malfunction is disallowed as a breakdown condition under any of the following circumstances: 1) there is negligence or disregard for laws; 2) there is an intentional or negligent act or omission by the owner or operator; 3) there is improper maintenance; or 4) there is a public nuisance.

What Do I Have To Do?

- Notify the APCD of any occurrence as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than four (4) hours after its detection. Be prepared to give your name, company, company contact, telephone number, location, date and time of the occurrence, equipment involved, and to the extent known, the cause or causes. Report the breakdown condition to the Industrial Breakdown Line at 805/654-2797 or facsimile a report to 805/645-1444.
- You must immediately undertake appropriate corrective measures and come into compliance, or elect to shut down for corrective measures before commencement of the next production run or within 24 hours, whichever is sooner. In-stack continuous monitoring equipment is allowed 96 hours to achieve compliance. If continued operation beyond this period is desired, the owner must request a hearing for an emergency variance from the APCD Hearing Board.
- You must submit a written report within seven (7) calendar days after the breakdown condition has been corrected. The report must include the following information: 1) a statement that the occurrence was corrected, including date and time of the correction, and proof of compliance; 2) a specific statement giving the reasons or causes of the occurrence sufficient to enable the APCD to determine if the occurrence was a breakdown condition; 3) a description of the corrective measures that were undertaken and/or will be undertaken to avoid future occurrences; 4) an estimate of the emissions caused by the occurrence; and 5) pictures of the equipment or controls that failed, if available. The APCD may extend the deadline for item 3 for good cause at the

request of the owner or operator. The burden shall be on the owner or operator to provide sufficient information to demonstrate that a breakdown condition occurred. The APCD will take appropriate enforcement action if this information is not supplied.

Failure to report a breakdown condition or provide written follow-up to a breakdown condition, or failure to do either one of these requirements in a timely manner are separate violations of Rule 32.

Questions?

For more information or to obtain a copy of Rule 32, Breakdown Conditions; Emergency Variances, contact the Compliance Section at 805/645-1413. To file for or ask for assistance with a variance, contact the District's Hearing Board Liaison at 805/645-1442. Direct mail inquires to Compliance Section, Ventura County APCD, 669 County Square Drive, Ventura, CA 93003.

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