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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



# NOISE ADVISORY CIRCULAR

## PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSORS

A/C No. 2      March 17, 1978      Page 1 of 2 pages

Subject: Definition of "manufactured".

A. Purpose

To clarify at what point a compressor will be considered manufactured for purposes of coverage under the Portable Air Compressor Noise Emission Regulation. (40 CFR 204.50 et seq.)

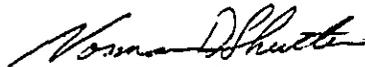
B. Background

Prior to the January 1, 1978 effective date of the standard for portable air compressors rated between 75 cfm and 250 cfm, manufacturers of those compressors requested that the Agency clarify the meaning of "manufactured" as found in section 204.50. [This section deals with the applicability of the regulation.] Manufacturers requested this clarification to aid them in determining that point in the manufacturing process when a product becomes a compressor such that it would be a compressor "manufactured" before the applicable date of the regulations and thereby not covered. In late 1977, some manufacturers had difficulty obtaining all needed parts to complete construction of compressors not designed to meet the noise standard and intended to be "manufactured" prior to January 1. Hence, the meaning of the term "manufactured" became critical in some cases in determining whether certain compressors under construction were covered by the regulations. This Advisory Circular will serve as notice of the Agency's determination of "manufactured". It is the responsibility of the manu-

facturer to plan his production so that only complying compressors will be manufactured after the upcoming July 1, 1978 effective date of the standard for compressors rated at greater than 250 cfm.

C. Discussion

1. For purposes of determining when compressors are covered by the Portable Air Compressor Noise Emission Regulation, a compressor may be considered to be "manufactured" prior to the effective date of the standard if it has reached, prior to that date, that point during the production process when the compressor is capable of performing its primary function--that is, when the compressor is capable of activating the pneumatic tools for which it is designed. At this point in the production process, the portable air compressor would consist of an air compressor (air end) and an engine rigidly connected in permanent alignment and mounted on a common frame. It would also include the cooling, lubricating, regulating, starting, and fuel systems and other parts necessary to make it function properly. It does not need to have all the ancillary equipment (e.g. enclosure doors and wheels) or any optional equipment attached. This point may vary from manufacturer to manufacturer depending upon the individual production process, but would normally be at that point when the manufacturer has completed his standard production tests.



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