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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NOISE ADVISORY CIRCULAR

PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSORS

A/C No. 4 October 31, 1978 Page 1 of 4 pages

Subject: The Noise Enforcement Facility's Compressor
Exchange Test Program

A. Purpose

To establish and outline the Compressor Exchange Test Program and to establish guidelines for participation in the program.

B. Background

The federal noise emission regulation covering portable air compressors (40 CFR Part 204) requires manufacturers of these products to conduct noise emission tests on representative products demonstrating compliance with the regulation prior to introduction of the products into commerce. The noise emission tests may be conducted by the manufacturer at his own test facility or at a contractor test facility. The Noise Enforcement Division will conduct compliance testing in accordance with the provisions of {204.56, including confirmatory tests on products already tested by manufacturers. This testing may be done at the EPA Noise Enforcement Facility in Sandusky, Ohio.

Because the Agency may use the Noise Enforcement Facility to make independent determinations of conformity/non-conformity, manufacturers have expressed a desire to

compare, in advance, noise measurements made at their facilities and at the Noise Enforcement Facility. The Agency has decided to make the Noise Enforcement Facility available for comparative testing.

C. Applicability

The Compressor Exchange Test Program is a voluntary test program. Any manufacturer covered under the noise emission regulation and any testing organization which plans to perform testing for manufacturers covered by the regulation may participate in the program.

D. Compressor Exchange Test Program Description

1. General:

The Compressor Exchange Test Program consists of a participant conducting noise emission tests in accordance with the following exchange test procedure on several compressors at his facility. The participant then ships these same compressors and the test results to the Noise Enforcement Facility where the same test procedure will be conducted by the Noise Enforcement Facility staff. By mutual consent, either the participant or the Noise Enforcement Facility may monitor testing, or conduct additional tests to resolve differences in data. The Noise Enforcement Facility will tabulate the data into a report and mail a copy to the participant.

Testing will be scheduled at the mutual convenience of the parties. Generally, a participant who requests test dates at the Noise Enforcement Facility well in advance (4 weeks) is more likely to get the dates he prefers than a participant who requests dates with short notice.

2. Exchange Test Procedure:

Step 1. A request to participate in the exchange test program should be submitted in writing and provide the Noise Enforcement Facility with a product description and tentative test dates (preferably 3 weeks before tentative test dates at participant's facility).

Step 2. Noise Enforcement Facility will commit to firm test dates within 2 weeks of the request and will mail a commitment to the participant. Data sheets will also be mailed at this time.

Step 3. Participant conducts necessary tests in accordance with 40 CFR §204.54 at his facility and completes the data sheets provided by the Noise Enforcement Facility. Six separate noise measurements are required to be made at each microphone location to complete the data sheets.

Step 4. Participant ships products and data sheets to Noise Enforcement Facility. These should arrive at the Noise Enforcement Facility no later than one day before testing is to begin.

Step 5. Noise Enforcement Facility reviews data sheets and testing for compliance with the Compressor Exchange Test Program requirements.

Step 6. Noise Enforcement Facility conducts the scheduled tests in accordance with 40 CFR §204.54 and completes the data sheets. Six separate noise measurements are required to be made at each microphone location to complete the data sheets.

Step 7. Participant removes his products from the Noise Enforcement Facility within one week after testing is completed.

Step 8. The Noise Enforcement Facility provides the participant a test report within 4 weeks after testing is completed.

3. Tests at Each Facility:

The test session at each facility shall consist of six valid noise measurements taken at each microphone location. A noise measurement for this test program is the highest A-weighted noise level observed during a 5-15 second interval. Data from the six intervals will be recorded sequentially for each microphone location.

4. Test Program Criteria:

a. The participant will provide two, three or four products for testing. (Three is the recommended number).

b. The participant is responsible for shipment of the products to and from the Noise Enforcement Facility, as well as loading, unloading, and preparing them for testing. The participant will bear the costs of shipping, loading, and preparation.

c. The participant will use the data sheets provided by the Noise Enforcement Facility to record test results and will provide these data sheets to the Noise Enforcement Facility prior to testing there.

d. Tests will be conducted by both parties in accordance with 40 CFR §204.54.

e. By mutual consent either party may monitor testing (including instruments) at the other party's test site provided that advance notice of the intent to do so is given.

E. How to Participate in Exchange Testing

Contact the Director, Noise Enforcement Facility, Plum Brook Station, Taylor Road and Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870, in writing at least 3 weeks in advance of the desired test dates. Identify the company name and address, the name of a company representative and telephone number, location of the participant's test site, number of products to be tested and a brief description of each product (use configuration parameters per §204.55-3), test schedule at participant's test facility, and proposed test schedule for the Noise Enforcement Facility. Include alternative dates for both test sites.



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