

Rule 234 Volatile Organic Waste Control Measure
(Adopted 1/23/96; Recodified 12/17/19)

RULE 234 CONTENTS

- 1. PURPOSE**
- 2. APPLICABILITY**
- 3. EXEMPTIONS**
- 4. DEFINITIONS**
- 5. REQUIREMENTS**

Rule 234

- 1 PURPOSE:** To reduce the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) during the generation, storage, transfer, treatment, recycling or disposal of volatile organic wastes to levels consistent with reasonably available control technology (RACT).
- 2 APPLICABILITY:** This Rule applies to any person who generates, stores, transfers, treats, recovers, recycles or disposes of volatile organic wastes.
- 3 EXEMPTIONS**
 - 3.1 Household Wastes:** Wastes generated by household users shall be exempt from the requirements of this Rule.
 - 3.2 Agricultural Wastes:** Organic agricultural chemicals (pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers) used to grow and harvest crops or raise fowl, animals, or bees, in order to make a profit, provide a livelihood or to conduct agricultural research or instruction by an educational institution..
 - 3.3 Stationary Source Waste:** A stationary source which generates, stores, transfers, treats, recovers, recycles or disposes of less than 110 gallons of volatile organic waste per year.
- 4 DEFINITIONS**
 - 4.1 Dispose** means to abandon, deposit, or otherwise discard any volatile organic waste, contained or non-contained, into or on any land or water so that such waste or any constituent of it may be emitted to the atmosphere.
 - 4.2 Generator** means any person whose act or process produces volatile organic waste.
 - 4.3 Incompatible Volatile Organic Wastes** means volatile organic wastes which are unsuitable for mixing under controlled conditions because the mixing could render some or all of the volatile organic wastes unsuitable for recycling or for application of other resource recovery process.
 - 4.4 Leak** means the dripping of liquid volatile organic compounds in excess of three (3) drops per minute or a reading as methane on a portable hydrocarbon detection instrument of 10,000 ppm or greater above background when measured within one centimeter of the source using EPA Reference Method 21 - Determination of VOC Leaks, or the appearance of a visible mist.
 - 4.5 Resource Recovery Process** means any method, technique, or process, which transforms a volatile organic waste into a usable material (such as a fuel supplement or recyclable solvent).

- 4.6 Stationary Source** means any stationary source as defined in District Rule 101 – *Definitions*.
- 4.7 Storage** means the containment of volatile organic waste prior to treatment, recovery, transfer, or disposal.
- 4.8 Treatment** means any method, technique, or process designed to reduce the organic compound content of any volatile organic waste.
- 4.9 Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)** means any compound as defined in Rule 101, *Definitions*.
- 4.10 Volatile Organic Waste** means any liquid waste which contains VOCs in excess of one percent by weight as determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Method 401 (Gravimetric Purge and Trap method) or by an equivalent method approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO).

5 REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Condition of Containers:** All containers holding volatile organic waste shall be maintained in a leak-free condition.
- 5.2 Compatibility of Waste with Container:** The owner or operator must use a container made of, or lined with, materials which will not react with the volatile organic waste to be stored so that the ability of the container to contain the waste is not impaired.
- 5.3 Management of Containers:** A container holding volatile organic waste must always be closed during storage, except when it is necessary to add or remove waste. Each storage container shall be labeled with the contents identified and the initial date noted when waste solvent was added.
- 5.4 Inspections:** The owner or operator shall inspect containers at least weekly, looking for leaks and for deterioration caused by corrosion or other factors.
- 5.5 Special Requirements for Ignitable or Reactive Wastes:** Containers holding ignitable or reactive waste must be located within the property boundary at least 15 meters (50 feet) from the facility's property line.
- 5.6 Special Requirements for Incompatible Wastes:**
- 5.6.1** Incompatible wastes must not be placed in the same container. The treatment, storage, and disposal of ignitable or reactive waste, and the co-mingling of wastes, or wastes and materials, must be conducted so it does not:
 - 5.6.1.1** Generate extreme heat, pressure, explosion, or violent reaction;
 - 5.6.1.2** Produce uncontrolled toxic mists, fumes, dusts or gases in sufficient quantities to threaten human health;

- 5.6.1.3** Produce flammable fumes or gases in sufficient quantities to pose a risk of fire or explosions;
 - 5.6.1.4** Damage the structural integrity of the device or facility containing the waste; or
 - 5.6.1.5** Through other means threaten human health or the environment.
 - 5.6.1.6** Transfer: Persons transferring liquid volatile organic wastes into any container having a capacity larger than 500 gallons shall utilize submerged filling or bottom loading, or an equivalent method as approved by the APCO.
- 5.7 Disposal:** A person shall not dispose of any volatile organic waste unless the State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, or the County Director of Environmental Health, as applicable, has approved the disposal method of such waste. All hazardous volatile organic waste as defined in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations shall be disposed of in a Class I landfill or treated, stored, or handled in a manner acceptable to the State of California Department of Toxic Substance Control.
- 5.8 Treatment:** Any person operating a facility for the treatment of volatile organic waste shall reduce the VOC content of the waste by no less than 99 percent by such treatment. The APCO may establish requirements to ensure that emissions from the treatment process do not endanger public health. CARB Method 401 shall be used to quantify the VOC content of treated and untreated waste.
- 5.9 Resource Recovery:** Any person operating a process for the recovery of resources from any volatile organic waste shall recover or reduce at least 80 percent of the VOC content of the waste during such recovery process. CARB Method 401 shall be used to quantify VOC content of the waste.
- 5.10 Record Keeping:** Any person who generates, stores, transfers, treats, recovers, recycles, or disposes of volatile organic wastes shall maintain records for a minimum of the most recent two (2) calendar years for inspection by the APCO documenting the following information:
 - 5.10.1** Amount of solvent sent to waste;
 - 5.10.2** Amount of solvent sent to resource recovery; and
 - 5.10.3** Amount of solvent sent to treatment facility.
- 5.11 Compliance Schedule:** any person subject to the requirements of this Rule shall be in compliance with all provisions within one year from the date of adoption.