



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

Facts About State Performance Test Rules

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This fact sheet summarizes Minn. R. 7017.2001 to 7017.2060 (the performance test rules), which contain the notification, reporting and quality-assurance requirements for facilities that must conduct performance tests. The performance test rule has been in effect since December 1993.

What is the performance test?

Minnesota rules define a performance test as the quantification of emissions or determination of the physical, chemical, or aesthetic properties of those emissions from an emissions unit by means of conducting one or more test runs at an emission facility. Performance testing may also include the determination of capture efficiency, collection efficiency, control efficiency, or destruction efficiency associated with a hood or emissions unit or control device. Performance tests are almost always performed by an independent testing company with expertise in the applicable methods.

Does the performance test rule apply to me?

The performance test rule applies to all facilities located in Minnesota that must conduct performance tests required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

What are the rule requirements regarding performance testing?

The following summarize the actions a facility must take when a performance test is required:

- Submit a written notification of testing to the MPCA, postmarked at least 30 days in advance of the scheduled test date.
- Submit a complete test plan to the MPCA, postmarked at least 30 days in advance of the scheduled test date. Test plan examples are available on the MPCA Web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/ptest-planning.html>.
- Arrange a pretest meeting with MPCA staff. The meeting should be held at least seven days before the scheduled test date. The facility is responsible for coordinating the meeting and attaining the necessary approval prior to the test.
- Submit a complete test report to the MPCA no later than 45 days after completing the test.
- Submit a compact disc or microfiche copy of the test report to the MPCA, no later than 105 days after completing the test.

Note: The performance test rule allows alternate deadlines in limited circumstances. If you do not believe that you can meet these deadlines, you must get MPCA approval *before* conducting the performance test.

Also be aware, certain federal requirements may have stricter requirements regarding deadlines.

What is a test plan?

A test plan is a document that describes in detail what will be tested, the test methods to be used, and how the affected equipment will be operated during the test.

You may need assistance from the independent testing company in defining the test methodology.

What is a pretest meeting?

A pretest meeting gives you, your consultant and MPCA staff the opportunity to discuss the test plan in order to help ensure that you will meet all of the procedural and technical requirements of the rule and to help MPCA staff understand the processes at your facility. Pretest meetings can often be held over the telephone, if a complete and accurate test plan has been submitted.

May I conduct my own performance test?

No. The performance test must be conducted by an independent testing company unless you have a permit or enforcement document that allows you to conduct some or all of your testing.

How must my equipment be operated during the performance test?

Generally your equipment must operate at worst-case conditions for each pollutant during the performance test. After a performance test, your emission units and/or pollution control equipment will be limited to the test operating parameters, if worst-case conditions were not achieved. When determining worst case conditions consider not only the emission unit operating rate(s) but also pollution control equipment operating rate(s).

What if I have an old permit that specifies a different timeline for the test requirements or does not list the above requirements at all?

Permits issued before December 1993 may not contain all of the current performance test requirements. If you have a schedule in your permit that is different from

Minnesota Rules, you should follow what is stated in your permit unless your permit references “Exhibit C – Performance test procedures”. If your permit contains Exhibit C, you should disregard the permit language regarding testing and follow the performance test rule. Also, if there is no schedule for completing the performance test in your permit, you must follow the performance test rule.

Where should I submit documents related to performance testing?

You must submit all documents related to performance testing to the Compliance Tracking Coordinator, Compliance/Enforcement Unit, Industrial Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194. Please note that although the independent testing company usually compiles the test report, you are responsible for meeting the submittal deadline.

Do I have to submit the results of performance testing that I conduct for my own purposes?

You must if the test shows a violation of the conditions of your permit or any rules or regulations. Otherwise, you do not need to submit results unless you think that you may want to submit the test result at some time in the future, for example, to support a permit application or to quantify your emissions for the emissions inventory, you must follow the performance test rule in order for the MPCA to consider the results valid.

Who do I contact if I have questions regarding this rule?

If you have questions regarding the performance testing program, contact the MPCA at 651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864 (within Minnesota only). MPCA Web site: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/performance_test.html.