

## THE AIR DVD: *Chapter 3 - Emissions Tests*

Emissions tests, otherwise known as stack tests, source tests, compliance tests, or performance tests, extract samples from a stack or emission point that is representative of emissions during normal operating conditions.

For a compliance determination, representative conditions include a worst-case scenario, which means you need to operate at 90% capacity during the test. This allows you to demonstrate compliance at all times of operation.

Emissions tests may be required for a variety of reasons. You may have to test an emission point to verify compliance with an emission limit or to verify the efficiency of your pollution control equipment. Your testing requirement may come from an air quality permit or a federal regulation.

The NDEQ may require a source to test if we have reason to believe that an emission point could be emitting pollutants in excess of a limit or regulatory threshold. You may also have to test if you make operational or process changes to your facility that could affect the emission rate.

Facilities are required to provide the NDEQ 30 days notice before testing. This allows us time to have an NDEQ representative on-site to observe. Facilities must also submit a written test protocol 30 days prior to the test.

The testing protocol should include a detailed description of the production process, operating parameters, test method, and sampling site.

The NDEQ does not approve protocols, but tries to address any potential concerns prior to the test.

The methods used during an emissions test are developed and approved by the EPA.

The EPA's test methods are found in the Code of Federal Regulations. While most are located in Part 60, they are also found in other parts of the code.

Any proposed deviations from the EPA Test Methods must be submitted to the NDEQ.

While an NDEQ observer is on site, they will verify that you are following the test methods and are operating at or near maximum capacity during the test. The NDEQ observer may also ask to review your historical operational data.

During the test, the facility must keep the process running as stable as possible. If adjustments are made during the test, the test could be considered invalid.

While conducting an emissions test, you must collect the data carefully to ensure your data is complete and accurate. Coordinate testing with the production crew and maintain contact between the facility and the test team.

You must submit the test results to the NDEQ within 45 days after the test occurs.

The report should include: copies of all original hand written field data sheets, clearly labeled strip chart records, laboratory analyses, calculations, instrument calibrations, and operational conditions.

We've developed a guidance document that provides detailed information related to protocols, data collection, and test reports. The guidance document is located on the NDEQ website.