

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 80.315

(c) Credits generated in accordance with this section must be identified by the year of creation.

[65 FR 6823, Feb. 10, 2000, as amended at 66 FR 19308, Apr. 13, 2001; 67 FR 40184, June 12, 2002; 71 FR 54912, Sept. 20, 2006]

ABT PROGRAM—CREDIT USE

§ 80.315 How are credits used and what are the limitations on credit use?

(a) *Credit use.* Credits may be used to meet the applicable refinery or importer annual average sulfur standards under § 80.195, § 80.216, or § 80.240, or may be used to meet the offset requirement under § 80.271(d)(1) for any refinery with an adjustment of itsper-gallon cap standard pursuant to § 80.271(a), provided that:

(1) Sulfur credits used were generated pursuant to the requirements of this subpart; and

(2) The requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section are met.

(b) *Credit transfers.* (1) Credits obtained from other persons may be used to meet the annual average standards specified in § 80.195, § 80.216, or § 80.240, or may be used to meet the offset requirement under § 80.271(d)(1) for any refinery with an adjustment of itsper-gallon cap standard pursuant to § 80.271(a), if all the following conditions are met:

(i) The credits are generated and reported according to the requirements of this subpart.

(ii) The credits are used in compliance with the limitations regarding the appropriate periods for credit use in this subpart.

(iii) Any credit transfer takes place no later than the last day of February following the calendar year averaging period when the credits are used.

(iv) No credit may be transferred more than twice: The first transfer by the refinery or importer who generated the credit may only be made to a refinery or importer who intends to use the credit; if the transferee cannot use the credit, it may make the second, and final, transfer only to a refinery or importer who intends to use the credit. In no case may a credit be transferred more than twice before being used or terminated.

(v) The credit transferor must apply any credits necessary to meet the transferor's applicable average standard before transferring credits to any other refiner or importer.

(vi) No credits may be transferred that would result in the transferor having a negative credit balance.

(vii) Each transferor must supply to the transferee records indicating the years the credits were generated, the identity of the refiner or importer who generated the credits, and the identity of the transferring party, if it is not the same party that generated the credits.

(2) In the case of credits that have been calculated or created improperly, or are otherwise determined to be invalid, the following provisions apply:

(i) Where a refiner's baseline has been determined to be incorrect under § 80.250(c) or § 80.290(f), any credits generated, banked, used or traded must be adjusted to reflect the corrected baseline.

(ii) Invalid credits cannot be used to achieve compliance with the transferee's averaging standard, regardless of the transferee's good faith belief that the credits were valid.

(iii) The refiner or importer who used the credits, and any transferor of the credits, must adjust their credit records and reports and sulfur calculations as necessary to reflect the proper credits.

(iv) Any properly created credits existing in the transferor's credit balance after correcting the credit balance, and after the transferor applies credits as needed to meet the average standard at the end of the compliance year, must first be applied to correct the invalid transfers before the transferor trades or banks the credits.

(c) *Limitations on credit use.* (1) Credits generated prior to 2004 may only be used for demonstrating compliance with the refinery or importer annual average standards under § 80.195 during the 2005 and 2006 averaging periods. Such credits may be used to demonstrate compliance with the standards under § 80.216 during the 2004 through 2006 averaging periods, and with the standards under § 80.240 during the 2004 through 2007 averaging periods, and the 2008 and 2009 averaging periods,

if allowed under the terms of a hardship extension under §80.265.

(2) Credits generated in 2004 or later may only be used for demonstrating compliance with standards during an averaging period within five years of the year of generation.

(3) A refiner or importer possessing credits must use all credits prior to falling into compliance deficit under §80.205(e).

(4) Credits may not be used to meet corporate pool average standards under §80.195.

[65 FR 6823, Feb. 10, 2000, as amended at 67 FR 40184, June 12, 2002]

§§ 80.320–80.325 [Reserved]

SAMPLING, TESTING AND RETENTION REQUIREMENTS FOR REFINERS AND IMPORTERS

§80.330 What are the sampling and testing requirements for refiners and importers?

(a) *Sample and test each batch of gasoline.* (1) Refiners and importers shall collect a representative sample from each batch of gasoline produced or imported and test each sample to determine its sulfur content for compliance with requirements under this subpart prior to the gasoline leaving the refinery or import facility, using the sampling and testing methods provided in this section.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the requirements of this section apply beginning January 1, 2004, or January 1 of the first year of allotment or credit generation under §80.275 or §80.305, whichever is earlier.

(3) Prior to January 1, 2004:

(i) Any refiner may release gasoline from the refinery prior to obtaining the test results required under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(ii) Any refiner of conventional gasoline may combine samples of gasoline from more than one batch of gasoline or blendstock prior to analysis and treat such composite sample as one batch of gasoline or blendstock pursuant to the requirements of §80.101(i)(2).

(4)(i) Beginning January 1, 2004, any refiner who produces gasoline using computer-controlled in-line blending

equipment is exempt from the requirement of paragraph (a)(1) of this section to obtain the test results required under paragraph (a)(1) of this section prior to the gasoline leaving the refinery, provided that the refiner obtains an exemption from this requirement from EPA. To obtain such exemption, the refiner must:

(A) Have been granted an in-line blending exemption under §80.65(f)(4); or

(B) If the refiner has not been granted an exemption under §80.65(f)(4), submit to EPA all of the information required under §80.65(f)(4)(i)(A). A letter signed by the president, chief operating or chief executive officer of the company, or his/her designee, stating that the information contained in the submission is true to the best of his/her belief must accompany any submission under this paragraph (a)(4)(i)(B).

(ii) Refiners who seek an exemption under paragraph (a)(4)(i) of this section must comply with any request by EPA for additional information or any other requirements that EPA includes as part of the exemption.

(iii) Within 60 days of EPA's receipt of a submission under paragraph (a)(4)(i)(B) of this section, EPA will notify the refiner if the exemption is not approved or of any deficiencies in the refiner's submission, or if any additional information is required or other requirements are included in the exemption pursuant to paragraph (a)(4)(ii) of this section. In the absence of such notification from EPA, the effective date of an exemption under paragraph (a)(4)(i) of this section for refiners who do not hold an exemption under §80.65(f)(4) is 60 days from EPA's receipt of the refiner's submission under paragraph (a)(4)(i)(B) of this section.

(iv) EPA reserves the right to modify the requirements of an exemption under paragraph (a)(4)(i) of this section, in whole or in part, at any time, if EPA determines that the refiner's operation does not effectively or adequately control, monitor or document the sulfur content of the refinery's gasoline production, or if EPA determines that any other circumstances exist which merit modification of the requirements of an exemption, such as