Environmental Protection Agency

§ 63.1008 Connectors in gas and vapor service and in light liquid service standards.

(a) Compliance schedule. The owner or operator shall comply with this section no later than the compliance dates specified in the referencing subpart.

(b) Leak detection. Unless otherwise specified in §63.1002(b), or §63.1016 of this subpart, the owner or operator shall monitor all connectors within 5 days by the method specified in §63.1004(b) if evidence of a potential leak is found by visual, audible, olfactory, or any other detection method. No monitoring is required if the evidence of a potential leak is eliminated within 5 days. If an instrument reading of 10,000 parts per million or greater is measured, a leak is detected.

(c) Leak repair. If a leak is detected pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, then the leak shall be repaired using the procedures in §63.1005, as applicable.

(d) Special provisions for connectors—

(1) Unsafe-to-monitor connectors. Any connector that is designated, as described in §63.1003(c)(1), as an unsafe-to-monitor connector is exempt from the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, the leak repair requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, and the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of §§63.1017 and 63.1018. An inaccessible connector is a connector that meets any of the provisions specified in paragraphs (d)(2)(i)(A) through (d)(2)(i)(F) of this section, as applicable.

(A) Buried;

(B) Insulated in a manner that prevents access to the connector by a monitor probe;

(C) Obstructed by equipment or piping that prevents access to the connector by a monitor probe; or

(D) Unable to be reached from a wheeled scissor-lift or hydraulic-type...
scaffold that would allow access to connectors up to 7.6 meters (25 feet) above the ground.

(E) Inaccessible because it would require elevating the monitoring personnel more than 2 meters (7 feet) above a permanent support surface or would require the erection of scaffold;

(F) Not able to be accessed at any time in a safe manner to perform monitoring. Unsafe access includes, but is not limited to, the use of a wheeled scissor-lift on unstable or uneven terrain, the use of a motorized man-lift basket in areas where an ignition potential exists, or access would require near proximity to hazards such as electrical lines, or would risk damage to equipment.

(ii) If any inaccessible ceramic or ceramic-lined connector is noted to have a leak by visual, audible, olfactory, or other means, the leak to the atmosphere shall be eliminated as soon as practical.

§ 63.1009 Agitators in gas and vapor service and in light liquid service standards.

(a) Compliance schedule. The owner or operator shall comply with this section no later than the compliance dates specified in the referencing subpart.

(b) Leak detection—(1) Monitoring method. Each agitator seal shall be monitored monthly to detect leaks by the methods specified in §63.1004(b), or §63.1016, except as provided in §63.1002(b) or in paragraph (e) of this section.

(2) Instrument reading that defines a leak. If an instrument reading equivalent of 10,000 parts per million or greater is measured, a leak is detected.

(3) Visual inspection. Each agitator seal shall be checked by visual inspection each calendar week for indications of liquids dripping from the agitator seal. The owner or operator shall document that the inspection was conducted and the date of the inspection. If there are indications of liquids dripping from the agitator seal, the owner or operator shall follow the procedures specified in paragraphs (b)(3)(i) and (b)(3)(ii) of this section prior to the next required inspection.

(i) The owner or operator shall monitor the agitator seal as specified in §63.1004(b) to determine if there is a leak of regulated material. If an instrument reading of 10,000 parts per million or greater is measured, a leak is detected, and it shall be repaired using the procedures in paragraph (d) of this section.

(ii) The owner or operator shall eliminate the indications of liquids dripping from the agitator seal.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) Leak repair. If a leak is detected, then the leak shall be repaired using the procedures in §63.1005, as applicable.

(e) Special provisions for agitators—(1) Dual mechanical seal. Each agitator equipped with a dual mechanical seal system that includes a barrier fluid system is exempt from the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, provided the requirements specified in paragraphs (e)(1)(i) through (e)(1)(vi) of this section are met.

(i) Each dual mechanical seal system shall meet the applicable requirement specified in paragraphs (e)(1)(i)(A), (e)(1)(i)(B), or (e)(1)(i)(C) of this section.

(A) Operated with the barrier fluid at a pressure that is at all times (except during periods of startup, shutdown, or malfunction) greater than the agitator stuffing box pressure; or

(B) Equipped with a barrier fluid degassing reservoir that is routed to a process or fuel gas system or connected by a closed vent system to a control device that meets the requirements of §63.1015; or

(C) Equipped with a closed-loop system that purges the barrier fluid into a process stream.

(ii) The barrier fluid is not in light liquid service.

(iii) Each barrier fluid system is equipped with a sensor that will detect failure of the seal system, the barrier fluid system, or both.

(iv) Each agitator seal is checked by visual inspection each calendar week for indications of liquids dripping from the agitator seal. If there are indications of liquids dripping from the agitator seal at the time of the weekly inspection, the owner or operator shall follow the procedure specified in either paragraph (e)(1)(iv)(A) or (e)(1)(iv)(B) of