§ 63.7501 Affirmative Defense for Violation of Emission Standards During Malfunction.

In response to an action to enforce the standards set forth in §63.7500 you may assert an affirmative defense to a claim for civil penalties for violations of such standards that are caused by malfunction, as defined at §63.2. Appropriate penalties may be assessed if you fail to meet your burden of proving all of the requirements in the affirmative defense. The affirmative defense shall not be available for claims for injunctive relief.

(a) Assertion of affirmative defense. To establish the affirmative defense in any action to enforce such a standard, you must timely meet the reporting requirements in paragraph (b) of this section, and must prove by a preponderance of evidence that:

(1) The violation:
   (i) Was caused by a sudden, infrequent, and unavoidable failure of air pollution control equipment, process equipment, or a process to operate in a normal or usual manner; and
   (ii) Could not have been prevented through careful planning, proper design, or better operation and maintenance practices; and
   (iii) Did not stem from any activity or event that could have been foreseen and avoided, or planned for; and
   (iv) Was not part of a recurring pattern indicative of inadequate design, operation, or maintenance; and

(b) Limited-use boilers and process heaters must complete a tune-up every 5 years as specified in §63.7540. They are not subject to the emission limits in Tables 1 and 2 or 11 through 13 to this subpart, or the operating limits in Table 4 to this subpart.

(c) Boilers and process heaters in the units designed to burn gas 1 fuels subcategory with a heat input capacity greater than 5 million Btu per hour and less than 10 million Btu per hour must complete a tune-up every 2 years as specified in §63.7540. Boilers and process heaters in the units designed to burn gas 1 fuels subcategory are not subject to the emission limits in Tables 1 and 2 or 11 through 13 to this subpart, or the operating limits in Table 4 to this subpart.

(d) Boilers and process heaters with a heat input capacity of less than or equal to 5 million Btu per hour in the units designed to burn gas 2 (other) fuels subcategory or units designed to burn light liquid fuels subcategory must complete a tune-up every 5 years as specified in §63.7540.

(e) Boilers and process heaters in the units designed to burn gas 1 fuels subcategory with a heat input capacity of less than or equal to 5 million Btu per hour must complete a tune-up every 5 years as specified in §63.7540. Boilers and process heaters in the units designed to burn gas 1 fuels subcategory until January 31, 2016.

(2) You must meet each operating limit in Table 4 to this subpart that applies to your boiler or process heater. If you use a control device or combination of control devices not covered in Table 4 to this subpart, or you wish to establish and monitor an alternative operating limit or an alternative monitoring parameter, you must apply to the EPA Administrator for approval of alternative monitoring under §63.8(f).

(3) At all times, you must operate and maintain any affected source (as defined in §63.7490), including associated air pollution control equipment and monitoring equipment, in a manner consistent with safety and good air pollution control practices for minimizing emissions. Determination of whether such operation and maintenance procedures are being used will be based on information available to the Administrator that may include, but is not limited to, monitoring results, review of operation and maintenance procedures, review of operation and maintenance records, and inspection of the source.

(b) As provided in §63.6(g), EPA may approve use of an alternative to the work practice standards in this section.

(c) Limited-use boilers and process heaters must complete a tune-up every 5 years as specified in §63.7540. They are not subject to the emission limits in Tables 1 and 2 or 11 through 13 to this subpart, or the annual tune-up, or the energy assessment requirements in Table 3 to this subpart.

(d) Boilers and process heaters with a heat input capacity of less than or equal to 5 million Btu per hour in the units designed to burn gas 2 (other) fuels subcategory or units designed to burn light liquid fuels subcategory must complete a tune-up every 5 years as specified in §63.7540.

(e) Boilers and process heaters in the units designed to burn gas 1 fuels subcategory with a heat input capacity of less than or equal to 5 million Btu per hour must complete a tune-up every 5 years as specified in §63.7540. Boilers and process heaters in the units designed to burn gas 1 fuels subcategory with a heat input capacity greater than 5 million Btu per hour and less than 10 million Btu per hour must complete a tune-up every 2 years as specified in §63.7540.
(2) Repairs were made as expeditiously as possible when a violation occurred; and
(3) The frequency, amount, and duration of the violation (including any bypass) were minimized to the maximum extent practicable; and
(4) If the violation resulted from a bypass of control equipment or a process, then the bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage; and
(5) All possible steps were taken to minimize the impact of the violation on ambient air quality, the environment, and human health; and
(6) All emissions monitoring and control systems were kept in operation if at all possible, consistent with safety and good air pollution control practices; and
(7) All of the actions in response to the violation were documented by properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs; and
(8) At all times, the affected source was operated in a manner consistent with good practices for minimizing emissions; and
(9) A written root cause analysis has been prepared, the purpose of which is to determine, correct, and eliminate the primary causes of the malfunction and the violation resulting from the malfunction event at issue. The analysis shall also specify, using best monitoring methods and engineering judgment, the amount of any emissions that were the result of the malfunction.

(b) Report. The owner or operator seeking to assert an affirmative defense shall submit a written report to the Administrator with all necessary supporting documentation, that it has met the requirements set forth in §63.7500 of this section. This affirmative defense report shall be included in the first periodic compliance, deviation report or excess emission report due after the initial occurrence of the violation of the relevant standard.

[78 FR 7163, Jan. 31, 2013]

GENERAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

§ 63.7505 What are my general requirements for complying with this subpart?

(a) You must be in compliance with the emission limits, work practice standards, and operating limits in this subpart. These limits apply to you at all times the affected unit is operating except for the periods noted in §63.7500(f).

(b) [Reserved]

(c) You must demonstrate compliance with all applicable emission limits using performance stack testing, fuel analysis, or continuous monitoring systems (CMS), including a continuous emission monitoring system (CEMS), continuous opacity monitoring system (COMS), continuous parameter monitoring system (CPMS), or particulate matter continuous parameter monitoring system (PM CPMS), where applicable. You may demonstrate compliance with the applicable emission limit for hydrogen chloride (HCl), mercury, or total selected metals (TSM) using fuel analysis if the emission rate calculated according to §63.7530(c) is less than the applicable emission limit. (For gaseous fuels, you may not use fuel analyses to comply with the TSM alternative standard or the HCl standard.) Otherwise, you must demonstrate compliance for HCl, mercury, or TSM using performance testing, if subject to an applicable emission limit listed in Tables 1, 2, or 11 through 13 to this subpart.

(d) If you demonstrate compliance with any applicable emission limit through performance testing and subsequent compliance with operating limits (including the use of CPMS), or with a CEMS, or COMS, you must develop a site-specific monitoring plan according to the requirements in paragraphs (d)(1) through (4) of this section for the use of any CEMS, COMS, or CPMS. This requirement also applies