

Question 5.2

Topic: Opacity Requirements

Question: If monitoring and reporting for opacity are in compliance with state requirements, will this be considered as satisfying the requirements in Part 75?

Answer: Yes, in general. Compliance with state opacity monitoring and reporting requirements would satisfy the requirements of Part 75 since § 75.65 specifies that opacity reporting be performed in a manner specified by an applicable state or local pollution control agency. In addition to complying with the reporting requirements in § 75.65, however, owners or operators are also subject to specific opacity monitoring requirements (§ 75.14) that require opacity monitoring systems to meet design, installation, equipment, and performance specifications in Performance Specification (PS) 1 in Appendix B to 40 CFR Part 60.

Therefore, in states where opacity monitoring systems are not subject to the requirements in PS 1, owners and operators must still ensure that opacity monitoring systems meet the PS 1 requirements, even though these monitoring requirements may be beyond those in the applicable state or local regulations. An owner or operator should continue reporting opacity information according to the requirements contained in the state implementation plan. Opacity information can be submitted according to the reporting and recordkeeping requirements of Part 75; however, where a conflict occurs between existing requirements and Part 75, follow the existing requirements of the state implementation plan.

References: § 75.65, § 75.14

History: First published in November 1993, Update #2; revised in the October 1999 Revised Manual