



Compliance Assistance ADVISORY

SUBJECT: In-Station Diagnostics Overpressure Alarm Response Requirements

Advisory #10-01

January 2010

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO ISD ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The purpose of this advisory is to alert owners and operators of gasoline dispensing facilities (GDFs) with in-station diagnostic (ISD) systems to changes in the required response to over pressure alarms.

ISD alarm data indicates a relatively high occurrence (>20%) of over pressure related alarms during the months when winter fuel is sold. The Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) of winter fuel is higher than that of the summer fuel. This is likely the cause for many of these alarms. Often during the cold months of November through March, these alarms cause repetitive, costly service calls that reveal no correctable cause of the failures.

With this information in mind, the SMAQMD is changing the procedure operators use to handle over pressure alarms during the months of November through March only. Prior to this advisory, operators were required to make a call for service for each over pressure alarm. Under the new policy, if a service call is made for an over pressure alarm and no problems are found with the system, the station owner is not required to call again for service for over pressure warning alarms for 30 days after the date of service response. After 30 days from the original service call, an over pressure warning alarm will again require a service call. If this *again* results in no correctable cause, the station owner will not be required to call for service for an over pressure alarm until after April 1. However, please note that if an above mentioned service call for an over pressure alarm *does* identify a vapor recovery system malfunction requiring repairs, the grace period is not applicable.

Please be reminded all actions need to be recorded in your maintenance log regardless the outcome.

Given that violations of air pollution regulations are subject to penalties, you are advised to contact the SMAQMD if you have any questions concerning these requirements. You may call the SMAQMD's *Compliance Assistance Hotline* at (916) 874-4884 for free, confidential assistance on any SMAQMD requirement.