



[EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-1196; FRL-10019-49-OAR]

Recent Postings of Broadly Applicable Alternative Test Methods

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the broadly applicable alternative test method approval decisions that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made under and in support of New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. This notice also announces the removal of a previously approved broadly applicable alternative test method.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: An electronic copy of each alternative test method approval document is available at <https://www.epa.gov/emc/broadly-applicable-approved-alternative-test-methods>. For questions about this notice, contact Mrs. Lula H. Melton, Air Quality Assessment Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (E143-02), Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone number: (919) 541-2910; fax number: (919) 541-0516; email address: melton.lula@epa.gov. For technical questions about individual alternative test method decisions, refer to the contact person identified in the individual approval document(s).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this notice apply to me?

This notice will be of interest to entities regulated under 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 59, 60, 61, 63 and 65; state, local, and tribal agencies; and the EPA Regional offices responsible for implementation and enforcement of regulations under 40 CFR parts 59, 60, 61, 63, and 65.

B. How can I get copies of this information?

You may access copies of the broadly applicable alternative test method approval documents at <https://www.epa.gov/emc/broadly-applicable-approved-alternative-test-methods>.

II. Background

This notice identifies broadly applicable alternative test methods that the EPA approved in 2020 under the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), 40 CFR part 60, and the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) programs, 40 CFR parts 61 and 63. See Table 1 of this notice for the summary of these test methods. Source owners and operators may voluntarily use these broadly applicable alternative test methods in lieu of otherwise required test methods or related testing procedures. Use of these broadly applicable alternative test methods are not intended to and should not change the applicable emission standards. This notice also announces the removal of ALT-109 as an approved broadly applicable alternative test method given our subsequent revisions to certain requirements in Method 22. 83 FR 56713 (November 14, 2018).

The Administrator has the authority to approve the use of alternative test methods for compliance with requirements under 40 CFR parts 60, 61, and 63. This authority is found in 40 CFR sections 60.8(b)(3), 61.13(h)(1)(ii), and 63.7(e)(2)(ii). Additional and similar authority can be found in 40 CFR sections 59.104(f) and 65.158(a)(2). The criteria for approval and procedures for submission and review of broadly applicable alternative test methods are explained in a previous *Federal Register* notice published at 72 FR 4257 (January 30, 2007) and located at <https://www.epa.gov/emc/broadly-applicable-approved-alternative-test-methods>. As explained in this notice, we will announce approvals for broadly applicable alternative test methods at <https://www.epa.gov/emc/broadly-applicable-approved-alternative-test-methods> as they are issued and publish an annual notice that summarizes approvals for broadly applicable alternative test methods during the preceding year.

As also explained in the January 30, 2007 notice, our approval decisions involve thorough technical reviews of numerous source-specific requests for alternatives and

modifications to test methods and procedures. Based on these reviews, we have often found that these modifications or alternatives would be equally valid and appropriate to apply to other sources within a particular class, category, or subcategory. Consequently, we have concluded that where a method modification or an alternative method is clearly broadly applicable to a class, category, or subcategory of sources, it is both equitable and efficient to simultaneously approve its use for all appropriate sources and situations.

Use of approved alternative test methods are not mandatory but rather permissive. Sources are not required to employ such a method but may choose to do so in appropriate circumstances. As specified in 40 CFR section 63.7(f)(5), however, a source owner or operator electing to use an alternative method for 40 CFR part 63 standards must continue to use the alternative method until otherwise authorized. Source owners or operators should, therefore, review the specific broadly applicable alternative method approval decision at <https://www.epa.gov/emc/broadly-applicable-approved-alternative-test-methods> before electing to employ any alternative method.

III. Approved Alternative Test Methods and Modifications to Test Methods

This notice specifies four broadly applicable alternative test methods that the EPA approved between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. The alternative method decision letter/memo designation numbers, test methods affected, sources allowed to use this alternative, and method modifications or alternative methods allowed are summarized in Table 1 of this notice. A summary of approval documents was previously made available on our Technology Transfer Network between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. For more detailed information, please refer to the complete copies of these approval documents available at <https://www.epa.gov/emc/broadly-applicable-approved-alternative-test-methods>.

As also explained in our January 30, 2007 notice, we will revisit approvals of alternative test methods in response to written requests or objections indicating that a particular approved alternative test method either should not be broadly applicable or that its use is not appropriate or

should be limited in some way. Any objection to a broadly applicable alternative test method, as well as the resolution of that objection, will be announced at <https://www.epa.gov/emc/broadly-applicable-approved-alternative-test-methods> and in a subsequent *Federal Register* notice. If we decide to retract a broadly applicable test method, we will likely consider the need for an appropriate transition period for users either to request case-by-case approval or to transition to an approved method.

This notice also announces our removal of ALT-109 as a broadly applicable alternative test method from the Broadly Applicable Approved Alternative Test Methods webpage. In the February 10, 2016 *Federal Register* notice (81 FR 7092), we announced the approval of ALT-109 as an alternative method that would allow the use of digital photographs as a compliance option for specific recordkeeping requirements in Method 22. On November 14, 2018, we incorporated this compliance option into Method 22 (83 FR 56713). Therefore, ALT-109 is no longer an alternative test method.

Dated: January 15, 2021.

Peter Tsirigotis,

Director,

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

TABLE 1. APPROVED ALTERNATIVE TEST METHODS AND MODIFICATIONS TO TEST METHODS REFERENCED IN OR PUBLISHED UNDER APPENDICES IN 40 CFR PARTS 60, 61, AND 63 POSTED BETWEEN JANUARY 2020 AND DECEMBER 2020. ^a

Alternative method decision letter/memo number	As an alternative or modification to . . .	For . . .	You may . . .
ALT-136	Gas Chromatography (GC) in Method 18.	Sources subject to 40 CFR parts 59, 60, 61, 63, and 65.	Use High-Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC) to measure acetic acid, formic acid, and lactic acid under Method 18.
ALT-137	ASTM D2879.	Sources subject to 40 CFR part 60, subparts K, Ka, and Kb; 40 CFR part 61, subpart FF; 40 CFR part 63, subparts G, Y, CC, WW, EEEE, and GGGGG; and 40 CFR part 65, subpart C.	Use ASTM D6377-16 and ASTM D6378-20 in accordance with the provisions specified in the approval letter dated June 19, 2020.
ALT-138	ASTM D6522-00	Sources subject to 40 CFR part 60, subpart JJJ and 40 CFR part 63, subparts ZZZZ and DDDDD.	Use Other Test Method-39.
ALT-139	Method 29-Determination of Total Vapor Phase Mercury Emissions from Coal-Fired Combustion Sources Using Carbon Sorbent Traps.	Sources subject to 40 CFR part 63, subpart LL-National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Primary Aluminum Reduction Plants.	Use Method 30B-Determination of Total Vapor Phase Mercury Emissions from Coal-Fired Combustion Sources Using Carbon Sorbent Traps

^aSource owners or operators should review the specific broadly applicable alternative method approval letter at <https://www.epa.gov/emc/broadly-applicable-approved-alternative-test-methods> before electing to employ any alternative test method.