

Source Testing

General Instructions

- Federal, state, and District rules require that permitted sources and emission control equipment meet rigid performance standard emission limits. To ensure that such equipment complies with these standards, the Compliance Division oversees and audits compliance source testing activities. Many District Authorities to Construct (ATC) and Permits to Operate (PTO) require equipment to be tested initially upon startup and periodically thereafter.
- The owner of any source operation which emits or may emit air contaminants, for which emission limits have been established, shall provide the following facilities: sampling ports, sampling platforms, and access to sampling platforms, District Rule 1081. The District may, at its discretion, witness all or any portion of a source test.
- Sources should immediately contact the District upon startup of the equipment. After the equipment has commenced **any** operation, the source shall conduct and complete the initial source test within 60 days or within the time constraints specified by the ATC or PTO condition, whichever is longer.
- Tests will be scheduled 30 days in advance and only after District staff have determined the equipment has been built and is operating according to ATC requirements.
- Permit required annual testing must occur on the anniversary of the initial test plus or minus 30-days.
- The District requires certified CARB (California Air Resources Board) approved testing contractors to perform required tests. These contractors act as an agent for the District, even while being paid by the source operator
- All test methods and equations are from: the United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 40, Part 60, Appendix A, the CARB Source Test Manuals, or other methods and equations from other Air Pollution Districts and approved by the District.

- Testing contractors shall not be involved in preparing applications for ATCs and/or PTOs
- Complete test protocols must be submitted for review and approval to the District at least 15 days prior to the planned test date. Protocols will not be accepted from contractors who have not obtained the necessary CARB certification(s).
- Equipment will be tested strictly in accordance with the operating requirements specified in the ATC or PTO and, generally, under worse case conditions and/or maximum process rates.
- Source tests conducted in violation of the aforementioned requirements are invalidated and cannot be used to show that equipment is in compliance with emission limits.
- Adjustments of any kind that may affect the outcome of a source test, and are not absolutely necessary to maintain normal or safe operating conditions, are prohibited.
- A scheduled source test may not be discontinued solely due to the failure of one or more runs to meet applicable standards.
- All test data that shows non-complying emissions must be reported to the District as soon as possible in order to ensure that sources take appropriate steps to return to a complying condition.
- All data collected in a test must be reported according to approved procedures within 60 days after the date of the test.