

WAC 173-400-107 Excess emissions. This section is in effect until the effective date of EPA's removal of the September 20, 1993, version of this section from the SIP. This section is not effective starting on that date.

(1) The owner or operator of a source shall have the burden of proving to ecology or the authority or the decision-making authority in an enforcement action that excess emissions were unavoidable. This demonstration shall be a condition to obtaining relief under subsections (4), (5) and (6) of this section.

(2) Excess emissions determined to be unavoidable under the procedures and criteria in this section shall be excused and not subject to penalty.

(3) Excess emissions which represent a potential threat to human health or safety or which the owner or operator of the source believes to be unavoidable shall be reported to ecology or the authority as soon as possible. Other excess emissions shall be reported within thirty days after the end of the month during which the event occurred or as part of the routine emission monitoring reports. Upon request by ecology or the authority, the owner(s) or operator(s) of the source(s) shall submit a full written report including the known causes, the corrective actions taken, and the preventive measures to be taken to minimize or eliminate the chance of recurrence.

(4) Excess emissions due to startup or shutdown conditions shall be considered unavoidable provided the source reports as required under subsection (3) of this section and adequately demonstrates that the excess emissions could not have been prevented through careful planning and design and if a bypass of control equipment occurs, that such bypass is necessary to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage.

(5) Maintenance. Excess emissions due to scheduled maintenance shall be considered unavoidable if the source reports as required under subsection (3) of this section and adequately demonstrates that the excess emissions could not have been avoided through reasonable design, better scheduling for maintenance or through better operation and maintenance practices.

(6) Excess emissions due to a malfunction or upset shall be considered unavoidable provided the source reports as required under subsection (3) of this section and adequately demonstrates that:

(a) The event was not caused by poor or inadequate design, operation, maintenance, or any other reasonably preventable condition;

(b) The event was not of a recurring pattern indicative of inadequate design, operation, or maintenance; and

(c) The operator took immediate and appropriate corrective action in a manner consistent with good air pollution control practice for minimizing emissions during the event, taking into account the total emissions impact of the corrective action, including slowing or shutting down the emission unit as necessary to minimize emissions, when the operator knew or should have known that an emission standard or permit condition was being exceeded.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.94 RCW. WSR 18-17-111 (Order 15-07), § 173-400-107, filed 8/16/18, effective 9/16/18; WSR 11-06-060 (Order 09-01), § 173-400-107, filed 3/1/11, effective 4/1/11; WSR 93-18-007 (Order 93-03), § 173-400-107, filed 8/20/93, effective 9/20/93.]