

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 451 of 1994

324.5509 "Malfunction" defined; rules; prohibition; actions taken by department; enforcement; conditions for applicability of subsections (3) to (5).

Sec. 5509. (1) As used in this section, "malfunction" means any sudden failure of a source, air pollution control equipment, process, or process equipment to operate in a normal or usual manner. A malfunction exists only for the time reasonably necessary to implement corrective measures. Malfunction does not include failures arising as a result of substandard maintenance that does not conform to industry standards, or periods when the source is being operated carelessly or in a manner that is not consistent with good engineering practice or judgment.

(2) By May 13, 1995, the department shall promulgate general rules, and may promulgate rules that pertain to specific categories of sources, that are consistent with, but are not limited to, the requirements of the clean air act, to establish standards of performance, emission standards, and requirements for monitoring, record keeping, and reporting that will apply during start-up, shutdown, and malfunction of a source, process, or process equipment. The rules shall require that during periods of start-up, shutdown, and malfunction, the operator shall to the extent reasonably possible operate a source, process, or process equipment in a manner consistent with good air pollution control practices for minimizing emissions.

(3) During periods of start-up, shutdown, or malfunction of a source, process, or process equipment, the emission of an air contaminant in excess of a standard or emission limitation, or a violation of any other requirement, established by this part, a rule promulgated under this part, or specified in a permit to install, a permit to operate authorized pursuant to rules promulgated under section 5505(6), or an operating permit under section 5506, is prohibited unless the following applicable requirements and any applicable rules promulgated pursuant to subsection (2) are complied with:

(a) At all times, including periods of start-up, shutdown, and malfunction, owners and operators shall, to the extent practicable, operate a source, process, or process equipment in a manner consistent with good air pollution control practice for minimizing emissions.

(b) Notice of a malfunction of a source, process, or process equipment that results in excess emissions of an air contaminant shall be provided to the department if the malfunction results in excess emissions that continue for more than 2 hours. Notice by any reasonable means includes but is not limited to oral, telephonic, or electronic notice, and shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 2 business days after the discovery of the malfunction. Written notice of malfunction shall be provided within 10 days after the malfunction has been corrected. Written notice shall specify all of the following:

(i) The cause of the malfunction, if known.

(ii) The date, time, location, and duration of the malfunction.

(iii) The actions taken to correct and prevent the reoccurrence of the malfunction.

(iv) Actions taken to minimize emissions during the malfunction, if any.

(v) The type and, where known or where it is reasonably possible to estimate, the quantity of any excess emissions of air contaminants.

(vi) Contemporaneous operational logs and continuous emission monitoring information where continuous emission monitoring is required by the clean air act or rules promulgated under this part or is specified as a condition of a permit issued under this part or an order entered under this part.

(c) The malfunctioning source, process, or process equipment shall have been maintained and operated in a manner consistent with the applicable provisions of a malfunction abatement plan approved under this part, if any.

(d) During start-up or shutdown, the source, process, or process equipment shall be operated in accordance with applicable start-up or shutdown provisions of its installation permit, nonrenewable permit to operate, or operating permit, if any.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), the department may take action under section 5518(1) to immediately discontinue and take action to contain an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, safety, or welfare.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), enforcement action may be taken against a person who violates section 5531(4), (5), or (6).

(6) Subsections (3) to (5) do not apply upon the effective date of the general rules required under subsection (2) or November 13, 1996, whichever is first.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

Compiler's note: The general rules referenced in subsection (6) were promulgated and became effective July 26, 1995.

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