§ 80.1339 Who is not eligible for the provisions for small refiners?

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(e) * * *

(4) During the period provided under paragraph (e)(2) of this section, and any extension provided under paragraph (e)(3) of this section, the refiner may not generate gasoline benzene credits under § 80.1275(b)(3) for any of its refineries where under § 80.1342 the refiner was previously allowed to defer compliance with the standards in §§ 80.1230(a) and 80.1230(b).

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§ 80.1340 How does a refiner obtain approval as a small refiner?

(a) Applications for small refiner status must be submitted to EPA by December 31, 2007.


(c) The small refiner status application must contain the following information for the company seeking small refiner status, and for all subsidiary companies, all parent companies, all subsidiaries of the parent companies, and all joint venture partners:

(1) Employees. For joint ventures, the total number of employees includes the combined employee count of all corporate entities in the venture. For government-owned refiners, the total employee count includes all government employees.

(i) Pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, a listing of each company refinery each refinery's address where any employee, as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, worked during the 12 months preceding January 1, 2006.

(ii) The average number of employees at each facility based upon the number of employees for each pay period for the 12 months preceding January 1, 2006.

(iii) The type of business activities carried out at each location.

(4) For each refinery, an indication of the small refiner option(s), pursuant to § 80.1342, intended to be utilized at the refinery.

(iv) In the case of a refiner that reactivates a refinery that it previously owned and operated and that was shut down or non-operational between January 1, 2005 and January 1, 2006, include the following:

(A) Pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, a listing of each company refinery each refinery's address where any employee, as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, worked since the refiner acquired or reactivated the refinery.

(B) The average number of employees at any such reactivated refinery during each calendar year since the refiner reactivated the refinery.

(C) The type of business activities carried out at each location.

(2) Crude oil capacity.

(i) The total corporate crude oil capacity of each refinery as reported to the Energy Information Administration (EIA) of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), for the period January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

(ii) The information submitted to EIA is presumed to be correct. In cases where a company disagrees with this information, the company may petition EPA with appropriate data to correct the record when the company submits its application for small refiner status.

(3) The type of business activity carried out at each location.

(4) For each refinery, an indication of the small refiner option(s), pursuant to § 80.1342, intended to be utilized at the refinery.

(5) A letter signed by the president, chief operating officer or chief executive officer of the company, or his/her designee, stating that the information contained in the application is true to the best of his/her knowledge, and that the company owned the refinery as of January 1, 2006.

(6) Name, address, phone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address of a corporate contact person.

(d) Approval of a small refiner status application will be based on the information submitted under paragraph (c) of this section and any other relevant information.

(e) EPA will notify a refiner of approval or disapproval of small refiner status by letter.
(1) If approved, all refineries of the refiner may defer meeting the standard specified in §80.1230(a) until the annual averaging period beginning January 1, 2015, and the standard specified in §80.1230(b) until the averaging period beginning July 1, 2016.

(2) If disapproved, all refineries of the refiner must meet the standard specified in §80.1230(a) beginning with the annual averaging period beginning January 1, 2011, and must meet the standard specified in §80.1230(b) beginning with the averaging period beginning July 1, 2012.

(f) If EPA finds that a refiner provided false or inaccurate information on its application for small refiner status, the refiner’s small refiner status will be void ab initio.

(g) Prior to January 1, 2014, and upon notification to EPA, a small refiner approved per this section may withdraw its status as a small refiner. Effective on January 1 of the year following such notification, the small refiner will become subject to the standards at §80.1230.

§80.1343 What hardship relief provisions are available only to small refiners?

(a)(1) In the case of a small refiner approved under §80.1340 for which compliance with the requirement at §80.1230(a) would be feasible only through the purchase of credits, but for whom purchase of credits is not practically or economically feasible, EPA may approve a delay of the requirements applicable to the first compliance period for that refiner for up to two years.

(2) No delay in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section will be granted to any small refiner prior to the EPA issuing a review of the credit program.

(3) A small refiner may request one or more extensions of an approved delay if it can continue to demonstrate extreme difficulty in achieving compliance, through the use of credits, with the annual average benzene standard at §80.1230.

§80.1344 What provisions are available to a non-small refiner that acquires one or more of a small refiner’s refineries?

(a) In the case of a non-small refiner that acquires a refinery from a small refiner approved under §80.1340 and that acquires a refinery from a small refiner approved under §80.1340, the small refiner provisions of the gasoline benzene program of this subpart continue to apply to the acquired refinery for a period of up to 30 months from the date of acquisition of the refinery. In no case shall this period extend beyond December 31, 2014.

(b) A refiner may apply to EPA for up to an additional six months to comply with the standards of §80.1230 for the acquired refinery if it believes that more than 30 months would be required