

On September 1, 2011, gas station owners and operators have new, simpler requirements to the Clean Air Agency. The new air quality regulations are designed to streamline owner/operator inspection and maintenance requirements, reduce paperwork and ensure expert service for required equipment testing, installations, and repairs.

Here’s a quick comparison of the previous and new regulations:

OVERVIEW OF GAS STATION RULE CHANGES FOR GAS STATION OWNERS/OPERATORS	
Previous Regulations	New Regulations (effective September 1, 2011)
Complete a long checklist for required daily self-inspections.	Check hoses and nozzles on a regular basis to ensure there are no gasoline leaks.
Maintain daily inspection logs.	Daily logs no longer required. Log only when you check for gasoline leaks.
Train employees to perform equipment inspections and maintain training logs.	Complete annual and semi-annual equipment testing to be done by certified technicians.
File required inspection reports with the agency.	Certified testers will submit pass/fall test reports to the agency.

Some things don’t change. Gas station owners/operators will still need to:

- Ensure employees understand their responsibility to check regularly for visible gasoline leaks in hoses or nozzles (frequency is up to the gas station owner/operator).
- Immediately correct equipment failures or remove defective equipment from service until repairs can be made.
- Know what and how often system and equipment tests are required for your station.
- Keep test reports on-site for two years after the inspection date and make them available to inspectors upon request.
- Have an Operations and Maintenance Plan.
- Be familiar with the complete set of rules; download them at www.pscleanair.org/gasstations .

If you have questions, contact Mario Pedroza at 206.689.4023 or MarioP@pscleanair.org .

SEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON BACK.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is affected by the rule change?

Gas station owners and operators who pump 200,000 gallons a year or more and all gas station testers and installers in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

What are the additional tests?

- All stations need to have a pressure-decay test every six months.
- Stations with vapor-balance systems need to have a complete set of tests every year instead of every other year.
- A tank torque test must be included in the complete set of annual tests.
- All new or replacement Stage One equipment installations will need a specified set of tests prior to operation.

Why more testing?

Increasing the frequency of testing will quickly identify any performance issues, which will save money with less down time for repairs and reduced leaks, and improve employee and customer safety.

When do I schedule the additional tests and how much do they cost?

Contact a certified technician to determine costs and when to complete the additional tests.

Can I resume full operations at my station if any of the tests fail?

No. If the defective equipment cannot be repaired by the close of the next business day following the failed compliance test, you must stop receiving and/or dispensing gasoline from the defective equipment until it is repaired and retested, and passes all required compliance tests.

Who is responsible for notifying the Clean Air Agency that the testing was completed?

The tester is required to submit a pass/fail test to the Agency within two days after the testing is completed.

Why am I required to hire technicians who are certified and where do I find one?

Only technicians who have passed the certification exams are permitted to conduct equipment tests and do new equipment installations in the Puget Sound region. Certification will reduce your staff time, training costs, equipment failures and related violations. For a list of installers and testers, visit: www.pscleanair.org/gasstations .

What happens if a testing technician is not certified as required by the Clean Air Agency?

A tester who claims to be certified but is not may be fined by the Agency. Ultimately, you, the gas station owner/operator, are responsible for hiring a *certified* technician. Always ask a technician for his/her certification card to ensure it is valid.

What is an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan for gas stations?

An O&M plan for gas stations can be as simple as a checklist that shows when the periodic inspections for gasoline leaks from hoses and nozzles are completed and any corrective action (repair) taken. The plan also includes a simple statement of how the station will complete the required compliance tests in a timely manner. The plan must be available upon request by an Agency inspector.