



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218
Fax: 804-698-4019 - TDD (804) 698-4021
www.deq.virginia.gov

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4020
1-800-592-5482

MEMORANDUM

TO: Director, Office of Air Compliance
Regional Air Compliance Managers

CC: James J. Golden, Deputy Director for Program Development

FROM: Michael G. Dowd, Director, Air Quality Division *MD*

SUBJECT: Stage I and Stage II Vapor Recovery System Testing Standards

DATE: April 18, 2011

Portions of AQP-9 and the regulations pertaining to Stage I and Stage II Vapor Recovery System Testing Standards, which were adopted in 1993, have become out dated due to advances in vapor recovery system technology, updated testing standards, and flexible fuels (e.g. fuel blends E-10, E-20, and E-85). In time, AQP-9 should be updated to make DEQ requirements consistent with the Stage I and Stage II technology, and testing standards now available and in use. In particular, DEQ requirements should take into consideration the criteria for CARB certified systems and CARB approved test methods for the newer Stage I and Stage II systems, the required installation of on-board refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) for all passenger cars since 2000 and all light trucks since 2006, as well as the use of flexible fuels.

Pending formal revision to AQP-9, in an effort to adequately address the rapid evolution in Stage I and Stage II vapor recovery systems and testing standards since 1993, DEQ has referred to CARB Executive Orders for testing methods and requirements when necessary to avoid results inconsistent with the use of current technology that might occur if DEQ relied solely on AQP-9. Therefore, until AQP-9 is revised, Gasoline Dispensing Facilities (GDF) who to seek to show compliance with the standards for Stage I or Stage II systems (including systems equipped to dispense flexible fuels) for either initial certification or periodic testing pursuant to 9 VAC 5-40-5200 (Rule 4-37) "Emission Standards for Petroleum Liquid Storage and Transfer Operations", may do so by one of the following:

1. AQP-9: following the prescribed test method(s) as outlined within the document;
2. The applicable CARB Test Method pertaining to the CARB Executive Order that the facility system was certified to or;
3. Other test method(s) accepted and approved by the Board.