



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

ELECTRONIC MAIL
DELIVERY RECEIPT REQUESTED

Daniel P. Askin
President / Technical Director
ESCA Tech, Inc.
3747 N. Booth St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
dan@esca-tech.com

RE: Request for Waiver of Performance Test, NSPS Subpart KK
Battery Builders, Inc., Naperville, Illinois

Dear Daniel P. Askin:

Thank you for your October 26, 2021 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, submitted on behalf of Battery Builders, Inc. and received by Region 5's Air Enforcement and Compliance Assistance Branch on November 10, 2021. Your letter requests a waiver from the performance testing requirements for two new Humidity Curing and Drying ovens to be installed at Battery Builders LLC, 31W238 91st Street, Naperville, Illinois (Battery Builders).

Battery Builders operates a lead-acid battery manufacturing facility which is an affected facility under 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart KK (NSPS Subpart KK), and is an affected source under 40 C.F.R. Part 63, Subpart P. Battery Builders currently has two Humidity Curing and Drying Oven Chambers (Stacks 4 and 19) and plans to install two (2) identical Humidity Curing and Drying Oven Chambers (stacks 20 and 21) in February 2022. Per the requirements of NSPS Subpart KK and NESHAP Subpart P, such Humidity Curing and Drying Ovens must meet all the standards for lead in 40 C.F.R. § 60.372.

The regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 60.372 (a)(6) and 40 C.F.R. § 63.11423 (c) require sources to conduct a performance test pursuant to the requirements at 40 C.F.R. § 60.8 in order to demonstrate compliance with the applicable standard. The Humidity Curing and Drying Ovens

are considered “any other lead-emitting operation” and have emission limits of 1.00 milligram of lead per dry standard cubic meter of exhaust (0.000437 gr/dscf).

Waivers from performance tests are allowed under 40 C.F.R. § 60.8 (b)(4) and § 63.7 (e)(2)(iv), if “...the owner or operator of a source has demonstrated by other means to the Administrator's satisfaction that the affected facility is in compliance with the standard.”

ESCA Tech, Inc. is submitting information on behalf of Battery Builders pursuant to these provisions. On March 8, 2012, EPA Region 5 granted a waiver from performance testing to the newly-installed Humidity Curing and Drying oven (Stack 19).

EPA’s *Clean Air Act National Stack Testing Guidance*, dated April 27, 2009, outlines certain criteria that EPA may consider when determining if a performance test waiver is appropriate. These include:

- (1) the units are located at the same facility;
- (2) the units are produced by the same manufacturer, have the same model number or other manufacturer’s designation in common, and have the same rated capacity and operating specifications;
- (3) the units are operated and maintained in a similar manner; and
- (4) the delegated agency, based on documentation submitted by the facility, determines that the margin of compliance for the identical units tested is significant and can be maintained on an on-going basis.


EPA has determined that the two new Humidity Curing and Drying Oven Chambers scheduled to be installed in February 2022 (stacks 20 and 21) meet the above criteria. In December 2008 a stack test was conducted at the facility on Cure Oven Stack 4. Average results were 0.011 mg lead /dscm (1.1% of the emissions allowed by 40 C.F.R. § 60.372 (a)(6)), or 1.94×10^{-5} pounds of lead per hour. Your October 26, 2021 letter included a copy of these test results. You also provide information representing that the four Humidity Curing and Drying ovens are all identical in regards to manufacturer, model, size, capacity, operating specifications, fuel, material processed, and method of operation. Addition of a fourth oven may actually slightly decrease the batch size from historic levels. Operational bottlenecks restrict exhaust of each oven to 2,600 hours per year, which calculates combined total lead emissions from all four ovens at 0.2 pounds of lead per year.

For the reasons explained above, EPA will grant Battery Builders, Inc.’s request for a waiver from the Performance Testing requirements of the NSPS General Provisions, at 40 C.F.R. § 60.8(a) and the NESHAP Subpart P requirements, at 40 C.F.R. § 63.11423 (c), for the two (2) identical Humidity Curing and Drying Oven Chambers (stacks 20 and 21) scheduled to be installed in February 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Natalie Topinka, of my staff, at topinka.natalie@epa.gov or 312-886-3853.

Sincerely,

**Harris,
Michael**

 Digitally signed by
Harris, Michael
Date: 2021.11.29
14:06:00 -06'00'

Michael D. Harris
Division Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

cc: Kent Mohr, Manager
Compliance Section
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