

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 80.560

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 69 FR 39179, June 29, 2004, §80.554 was added, effective Aug. 30, 2004.

§ 80.555 What provisions are available to a large refiner that acquires a small refiner or one or more of its refineries?

(a) In the case of a refiner without approved small refiner status who acquires a refinery from a refiner with approved status as a motor vehicle diesel fuel small refiner or a NRLM diesel fuel small refiner under §80.551(g), the applicable small refiner provisions of §§ 80.552 and 80.554 may 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 May 31, 2010 for a refinery acquired from a motor vehicle diesel fuel small refiner or beyond the dates specified in §80.554(a) or (b), as applicable, for a refinery acquired from a NRLM diesel fuel small refiner.

(b) A refiner may apply to EPA for up to an additional six months to comply with the standards of §80.510 or 80.520 for the acquired refinery if more than 30 months would be required for the necessary engineering, permitting, construction, and start-up work to be completed. Such applications must include detailed technical information supporting the need for additional time. EPA will base a decision to approve additional time on information provided by the refiner and on other relevant information. In no case will EPA extend the compliance date beyond May 31, 2010 for a refinery acquired from a motor vehicle diesel fuel small refiner or beyond the dates specified in §80.554(a) or (b), as applicable, for a refinery acquired from a NRLM diesel fuel small refiner.

(c) Refiners who acquire a refinery from a refiner with approved status as a motor vehicle diesel fuel small refiner or a NRLM diesel fuel small refiner under §80.551(g), shall notify EPA in writing no later than 20 days following the acquisition.

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§§ 80.556–80.559 [Reserved]

OTHER HARDSHIP PROVISIONS

§ 80.560 How can a refiner seek temporary relief from the requirements of this subpart in case of extreme hardship circumstances?

(a) EPA may, at its discretion, grant a refiner, for one or more of its refineries, temporary relief from some or all of the provisions of this subpart. Such relief shall be no less stringent than the small refiner compliance options specified in §80.552. EPA may grant such relief provided that the refiner demonstrates that:

(1) Unusual circumstances exist that impose extreme hardship and significantly affect the refiner's ability to comply by the applicable date; and

(2) It has made best efforts to comply with the requirements of this subpart.

(b) Applications must be submitted to EPA by June 1 2002 to the following address: Applications for small refiner status must be sent via certified mail with return receipt or express mail with return receipt to: U.S. EPA-Attn: Diesel Hardship (6406J), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (6406J), Washington, DC 20460 (certified mail/return receipt) or Attn: Diesel Hardship, Transportation and Regional Programs Division, 501 3rd Street, NW (6406J), Washington, DC 20001 (express mail/return receipt). EPA reserves the right to deny applications for appropriate reasons, including unacceptable environmental impact. Approval to distribute motor vehicle diesel fuel not subject to the 15 ppm sulfur standard may be granted for such time period as EPA determines is appropriate, but shall not extend beyond May 31, 2010.

(c) Applications must include a plan demonstrating how the refiner will comply with the requirements of this subpart as expeditiously as possible. The plan shall include a showing that contracts are or will be in place for engineering and construction of desulfurization equipment a plan for applying for and obtaining any permits necessary for construction or operation, projected timeline for beginning and completing construction, and for beginning actual operation of such equipment, and a description of plans