

May 2, 2006

Contact – Nicholle Jackson

**Workgroup Recommendations and Other Potential Control Measures**  
**VOC Workgroup**

**VOC002 – PORTABLE FUEL CONTAINERS (PFC) AMENDMENTS**

**DESCRIPTION**

Portable Fuel Containers:

Portable fuel containers (PFCs – commonly referred to as “gas cans”) are widely used to refuel residential and commercial equipment and vehicles when the situation or circumstances prohibits direct refueling at a service station. PFCs are also used to refuel a broad range of small off-road engines and other equipment (e.g., lawnmowers, chainsaws, personal watercraft, motorcycles, etc.).

PFCs accounted for an estimated 34 summer tons per day in the New Jersey Draft 2002 Emission Inventory. The New Jersey Consumer Product Rule (Subchapter 24) includes a new section on PFCs. This section became effective January 1, 2005. This proposed control measure would update the existing New Jersey PFC rule to better reduce evaporation of fuel vapors through PFC openings and permeable surfaces.

Portable Outboard Marine Tanks:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is conducting a study of portable outboard marine tanks. Portable outboard marine tanks (OMTs) are small-capacity, removable tanks used to supply fuel to outboard marine engines. Unlike larger vessels with permanently mounted tanks, many small and medium size vessels use portable tanks that can be removed for transport or storage. When in use, the tank is connected to the engine by use of a rubber fuel line and a hand pump is used to prime the engine and start the flow of fuel. For storage, the tank may be removed and placed in a garage.

The CARB study will include an evaluation of fuel tank and fuel line construction, storage and usage practices, and an analysis of the California tank population. The intent of the study is to examine potential emission impacts. The State of New Jersey will follow the progress of the CARB survey and efforts to determine if and when to follow suit.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

*Candidate measure:* Adopt the CARB 2005 amendments to their PFC rules to be consistent with CARB requirements and specifications.

The amendments would include:

1. Modify the existing spout regulations to improve spillage control.
2. Accept CARB certification program for PFCs to improve product quality.
3. Clarify that the definition of a PFC includes utility jugs and kerosene containers, which to date are not designed for fuel use but are often sold alongside low emission fuel containers.

Disclaimer – The recommendations contained within this white paper do not constitute official state decisions nor reflect any pending regulatory or nonregulatory actions. The NJDEP welcomes public feedback on this (or any other) white paper.

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4. Accept CARB's latest PFC test procedures to streamline testing.

*Note: This measure is being considered by the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) for implementation in the entire Ozone Transport Region (OTR).*

**COST**

CARB estimates the cost effectiveness to be \$0.40 to \$0.70 per pound (\$800 to \$1,400 per ton) VOC reduced.

**EMISSION REDUCTIONS**

CARB estimates these amendments are expected to reduce reactive organic gas (ROG) emissions by 18.4 tpd by the year 2015 and 12 tpd beyond the original PFC rule (after full penetration into the marketplace). This is roughly equivalent to 4 tpd in New Jersey, or 3 tpd beyond the original rule, after full 10-year turnover to compliant cans.

**COST EFFECTIVENESS**

While CARB staff does not expect these changes to affect the cost of gasoline cans, the price of kerosene cans could rise to as much as \$8.50 per container once the regulations are implemented. CARB also estimates the cost effectiveness to be between \$0.40 to \$0.70 per pound (\$800 to \$1400 per ton).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

New Jersey is currently using funds from a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to implement a PFC exchange program in Middlesex and Camden counties. The purpose of this program is to promote recycling and to reduce air pollution by removing old portable fuel containers from use/circulation and to replace them with the new portable fuel containers. Also, see NA006.

**SOURCE**

1. California Air Resources Board – Portable Fuel Containers Webpage, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/pfc/pfc.htm>, accessed March 20, 2006.
2. Summary of OTC Candidate Control Measures: *Control Summary for Portable Fuel Containers*, March 15, 2006.
3. *A Collaborative Report Presenting Air Quality Strategies for Further Consideration by the State of New Jersey*, Prepared by the Volatile Organic Compounds from Processes and Consumer Products Workgroup, October 31, 2005.

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4. California Air Resources Board – Outboard Marine Tanks Webpage,  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/omt/omt.htm>, accessed March 20, 2006.
5. NJDEP Air Compliance & Enforcement, Central Regional Office