



Technical Notes
003

Exceeding Expectations

“There is a season... turn, turn, turn...”

It's VOC season... time to “turn” your tanks from winter grade gasoline to summer specifications.

What is VOC?

VOC stands for Volatile Organic Compounds and they are found in products including but not limited to gasoline... paints... underarm deodorant and cleaning fluids. They are a major concern of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The California Air Resource Board (CARB) members of the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) and various state air quality boards throughout the United States.

VOCs have been found to be a major contributing factor to ozone, a common air pollutant which has been proven to be a public health hazard.

Prior to 1999, gasoline blenders were mainly concerned with RVP (Reid Vapor Pressure) when changing over from winter to summer spec. RVP is a test measuring the amount of vapors gasoline emits under certain temperatures. The hotter the climate, the more vapors emitted into the atmosphere. Today, with VOC regulations, there are various tests which come into play to determine summer grade gasoline.

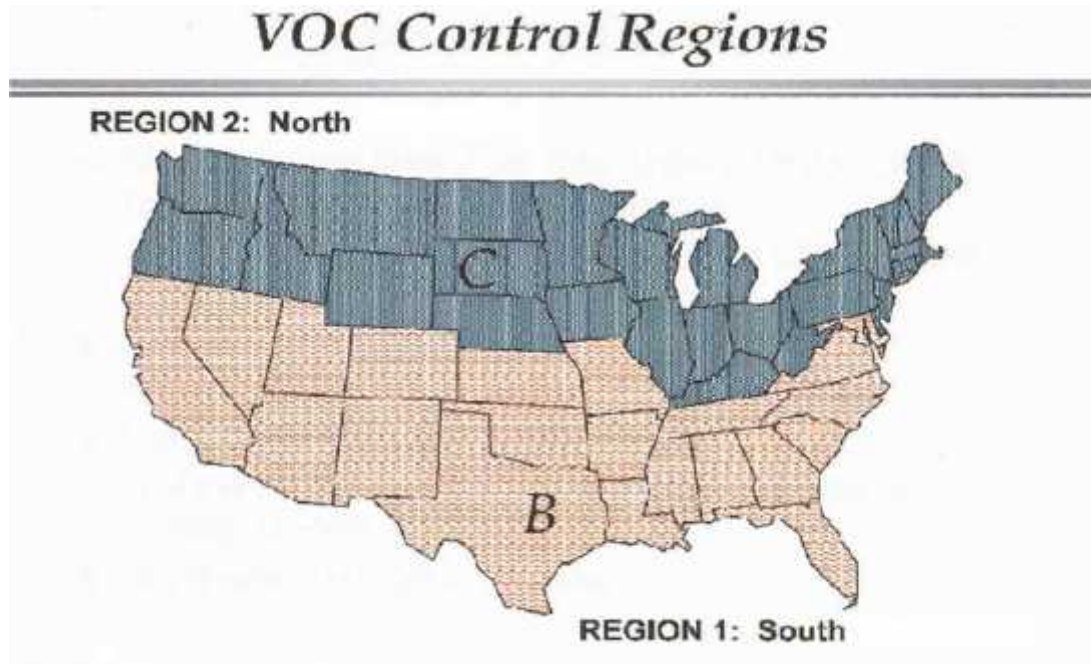
VOC is calculated using the following tests listed:

- RVP
- Distillation
- Olefins
- Aromatics
- Sulfur
- Oxygenates
- Benzene
- Density

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VOC specifications vary depending on the region as highlighted below. These regions are designated by average temperature as typically warmer climates tend to emit more vapors than those with relatively cooler temperatures.



Common Questions:

What VOC do I have to meet if I am loading a barge in one region and delivering to another? The loading VOC specification must meet the delivery location min / max VOC requirements for the area in which the product is intended to be used. Please be aware some terminals store and distribute for use in both regions from the same location.

How do I correct VOC if it is off test? Blending lower or higher components, mixing the tanks and allowing sufficient settling time are all factors to be considered when a VOC is off test depending which part(s) of the slate are the contributing factors. Bear in mind, VOC, as previously mentioned, is a calculation of a variety of individual tests. If VOC is determined off test, AmSpec, after analyzing your test results, will advise with recommendations to help minimize your company's exposure to costly correction components.

Due to the complexity of this subject matter, please feel free to call our Quality Control Center at (800) 286-2208 for further explanation.

AmSpec... your go-to place for VOC testing as well as all your inspection & laboratory needs.

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