

SOP-VC-L/T STG
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APPROVED BY: DKP
DATE: 10/90

SOP 5601-012.SOP
CLEARING PROCEDURE FOR VC EQUIPMENT

CHECK	ACTION STEPS (Capital letters) and Comments (Small letters)
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1. **JOB SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS REVIEWED.**
2. **INSURE THAT YOU ARE WEARING PROPER SAFETY EQUIPMENT: HARD HAT, SAFETY GLASSES OR GOGGLES, SAFETY SHOES, HEARING PROTECTION (OPTIONAL), GLOVES, RESPIRATORY PROTECTION (IF POTENTIAL FOR CHEMICAL EXPOSURE EXISTS).**
3. **ISOLATE AND TAG ALL ASSOCIATED PIPING AND EQUIPMENT.** This includes electrical equipment such as pump motors.
4. **IF POSSIBLE, PUSH ANY LIQUID PRESENT TO A SIMILAR STREAM, SUCH AS PUSHING ONE PUMP'S CONTENTS OUT TO THE OTHER PUMP OR BACK TO ITS SOURCE.** If this is not possible, allow the liquid to flash off to the vent header.
5. **ALL CLEARING SHOULD BE ROUTED TO THE VENT HEADER VIA ORGANIC HOSE OR HARD PIPE.** The VCM air regulations require that VCM equipment must be cleared to an emission control device that reduces VC concentration to 10 ppm or less. In our case the control device is the incinerator. Use nitrogen to purge the equipment top to bottom to the vent header. A top to bottom purge is necessary because vinyl vapors (as other organics) are heavier than air.

NOTE: Occasionally, there is no way to bleed an isolated section of piping; typically this occurs around SRVs, either on the inlet or the outlet spoolpieces. If the volume to be cleared is less than 25 gallons, the flange may be carefully loosened, and the VC slowly bled to the atmosphere. Before doing so, put on an air pack for respiratory protection, and make sure the area is clear of other workers. Write a note about this situation in the logbook so that your supervisor can get a bleed installed for future clearing. The VCM regulations do not permit venting more than a 25 gallon volume to the atmosphere; in this case, consult your supervisor before clearing the piping.

6. **NOTIFY THE INCINERATOR OPERATOR THAT YOU ARE PUTTING HOT VENTS INTO THE VENT HEADER.** Extreme care must be taken to avoid overloading the incinerator so as not to cause a vent trip. If the incinerator shows more than 10 ppm VC in the stack, the vent should be blocked off until the stack clears.

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----- 7. THE "TIP" METER SHOULD BE USED TO EVALUATE THE PROGRESS OF THE CLEARING EQUIPMENT. Once the VC concentration is down to ~20 PPM, the purge to the vent header may be shut off and the equipment may be opened to the atmosphere as long as there is no danger of overexposing any personnel to vinyl. Put the purge back to the vent header if VCM ambient air alarms occur.

Current regulations allow the opening of equipment when the VC concentration is below 2% (20,000 PPM). However, personnel exposure limits are 1 PPM over an 8 hour period with a maximum limit of 15 PPM over a 15 minute period.

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