

Vapor Control System Categories

Category 1: (No additional VCS requirements above those for benzene, gasolines and crude oil) All requirements applying to the handling of oil and hazardous materials in Titles 33 and 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) apply to these cargoes. Those specifically dealing with vapor control systems are in 33 CFR 155.750, 33 CFR 156.120, 33 CFR 156.170, 46 CFR 35.35 and 46 CFR 39. The cargo tank venting system calculations (46 CFR 39.20-11) and the pressure drop calculations (46 CFR 39.30-1(b)) must use appropriate friction factors, vapor densities and vapor growth rates.

Category 2: (Polymerizes) Polymerization and residue build-up of these cargoes can adversely affect the vessel by fouling safety components and restricting vapor flow which could lead to cargo tank overpressurization. The vessel's owner must develop a method of ensuring all VCS safety components are functional and polymer build-up is not causing an unsafe condition due to increased pressure in the vapor control piping and cargo tanks. The method shall be acceptable to the local Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection. This is in addition to the requirements of Category 1. Please note that a material not normally considered a monomer can be a problem in detonation arrester.

Category 3: (Highly toxic) VCSs for these toxic cargoes cannot use a spill valve or rupture disk as the primary means to meet the overfill protection requirement of 46 CFR 39.20-9. This requirement is in addition to the requirements of Category 1.

Category 4: (Polymerizes and highly toxic) Must comply with requirements of Categories 1, 2 and 3.

Category 5: (High vapor pressure) VCS pressure drop calculations for cargoes with a vapor pressure greater than 14.7 psia at 115 F must take into account increased vapor-air mixture densities and vapor growth rates as compared to Category 1 cargoes. Consult the Marine Safety Center's VCS Guidelines for further information. This requirement is in addition to the requirements of Category 1.

Category 6: (High vapor pressure and highly toxic) Must comply with requirements of Categories 1, 3 and 5.

Category 7: (High vapor pressure and polymerizes) Must comply with requirements of Categories 1, 2 and 5.