

PRESS RELEASE

Flexitallic - Helping Reduce Fugitive Emissions

2007 sees the enforcement of the IPPC Directive EC 96/61 (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) which took effect from October. Under this program all companies involved in industrial activity which could impact the environment will have to apply for a new Permit where they have to demonstrate that "Best Available Techniques" (BAT) are being applied.

The aim of the directive is as follows:

- Prevent/reduce emissions (to air, land & water)
- Prevent/reduce noise, odor & vibration
- Prevent/reduce waste
- Prevent/reduce environmental accidents
- Conserve Energy



What are fugitive emissions?

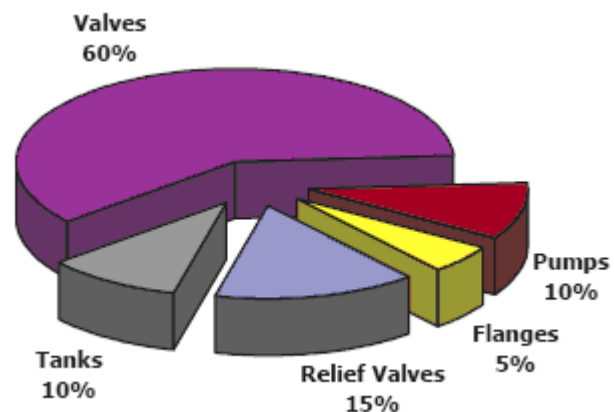
They are defined as emissions of "Any chemical or mixture of chemicals, in any physical form, which represent an unanticipated or spurious leak, from anywhere on an industrial site" most of which are invisible to the eye.

Throughout Europe, fugitive emissions from refineries range from 600 to 10000 tonnes of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) per year. If this amount of product is lost each year, it could prove very costly to the producer in terms of lost product and plant down time.

Failure to comply with the new legislation could result in closure following the October deadline.

All gaskets leak to a certain extent, this level is usually published by the gasket manufacturer based on a set amount of stress applied to a gasket.

This figure has been the driving force behind gasket development over the past few years. A measure of this is gaining approval from the TA Luft, which is the clean Air Program for Germany.



Training is a fundamental part of reducing the number of leaks on any plant which is why we offer a training course based on Best Available Techniques coupled with the best gasket choice for the application to create a winning formula.

Following the correct gasket choice it is worth bearing in mind the expected life of any gasket material. Issues have been experienced with Graphite gasket materials oxidizing over time lowering the sealability. Thermiculite is the answer with operating temperatures of up to 900°C without compromise. Please contact us for more information.

Here at Flexitallic we have the products and the technical expertise to assist you in your application for a permit. So for a Gasket Review and proposal for reducing Emissions please contact us.



Useful Facts & Figures

A study commissioned by the Pressure Vessel Research Council (PVRC) of the USA, indicated that most flange joint failures resulting in leaks are due to:

- improper installation (26%)*
- flange damage (25%)*
- gasket (22%)*
- loose bolts (15%)*
- flange misalignment (12%)*

*Distribution of Fugitive Emission Occurrences

Flexitallic[®]
MARKETING DEPARTMENT