



**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Air Resources**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
Stage I Enhanced Vapor Recovery (EVR) Systems**

Dated: December 1, 2020

1. What is the most recent action that RI DEM has taken regarding Stage I vapor recovery systems?

In 2013, RI DEM amended Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 11, “Petroleum Liquids Marketing and Storage” (Part 11) to allow for decommissioning of Stage II vapor recovery systems since the majority of gasoline vehicles are now equipped with onboard vapor recovery systems. With those revisions, the Stage I vapor recovery system requirements were strengthened to better control emissions. **A deadline of December 25, 2020 was adopted for the changeout of Stage I vapor control systems to systems utilizing enhanced vapor recovery (EVR) Stage I equipment certified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).**

2. What is a Stage I Pre-EVR system?

Stage I vapor controls prevent gasoline vapors from being released to the environment during product deliveries from fuel trucks to gasoline dispensing facilities (GDFs) fuel storage tanks. “Pre-EVR” refers to older Stage I systems that were certified by CARB from 1976 to 2000.

3. What is a CARB-certified Stage I EVR system?

A CARB-certified Stage I EVR system refers to California Air Resources Board (CARB) certified Stage I systems that meet stricter emissions control standards compared to Stage I Pre-EVR systems.

4. Does a Pre-EVR Stage I system need to be upgraded to a CARB-certified Stage I EVR system if the Pre-EVR system still passes the Stage I compliance tests?

Yes. All Pre-EVR Stage I systems must be upgraded by December 25, 2020. Please see Question 5 for more information regarding this compliance date.

5. What is the deadline to upgrade my Stage I Pre-EVR system to a CARB-Certified Stage I EVR system?

All existing GDFs are required to upgrade to a CARB-certified Stage I EVR system or a Stage I control system composed of CARB-certified EVR components by December 25, 2020. **However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, RI DEM is providing relief to GDFs that need additional time to install the EVR equipment.**

RI DEM is aware that due to COVID-19, construction and installation of the CARB-certified Stage I EVR system may be delayed. If this is the case for your GDF, please submit the form titled “Proposed Installation of Stage I CARB-Certified EVR System” to the DEM Office of Air Resources, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 prior to December 25th, 2020 and include the scheduled date of installation, even if it occurs after the December 25, 2020 compliance deadline. This form can be found at the end of this FAQ.

6. If a Stage I Pre-EVR Component breaks or fails a Stage I test, do I have to replace the Pre-EVR component with a CARB-certified EVR component?

Yes. Per the requirements in Part 11 as revised in 2013, any component that is replaced after December 25, 2013 must be replaced with a CARB-Certified EVR Stage I component ([11.9.2.\(F\)\(4\)](#)). This includes all components that break or fail a Stage I test.

7. Are “slip-on” stainless steel spill buckets (spill containment basins, both vapor and fill port sides) considered CARB-Certified?

No, CARB Executive Orders do not allow these types of spill containers. Since they are not considered "CARB-certified", under DEM regulations they are not acceptable.

8. Are Coaxial Stage I systems considered exempt?

No, coaxial systems are not allowed under the CARB Executive Orders. However, since RI DEM believes that there are a limited number of coaxial systems, we may be able to offer some relaxation to this requirement, under 11.13 *Equivalence Approval*, to allow for coaxial systems to be replaced when the station is doing a full tank replacement. Such equivalence approvals would be on a case-by-case basis, and in each instance would be subject to application to and approval by EPA. It would require an analysis and demonstration by RI DEM that the coaxial system is not significantly increasing emissions as compared to the dual pipe system. RI DEM is required to submit a request to EPA for an equivalence approval and such request may be denied by EPA.

9. How do I determine what kind of Stage I system is installed at my GDF?

RI DEM recommends that you consult with your Stage I installation contractor and/or Stage I testing company to determine the type of system that is currently installed at your GDF.

10. What are the approved Stage I EVR systems that can be installed in Rhode Island?

There are two Stage I systems approved for installation under RI DEM’s Part 11 Regulations: CARB-certified “EVR Stage I vapor control system” or a “Stage I vapor control system composed of CARB-certified EVR components”. The CARB Executive Orders listed in Tables 1 and 2 identify approved systems.

Underground Storage Tanks (UST): *Table 1*

Number	Description
VR-101	Phil-Tite Phase I Vapor Recovery System
VR-102	OPW Phase I Vapor Recovery System

VR-103	EBW Phase I Vapor Recovery System*
VR-104	CNI Manufacturing Phase I Vapor Recovery System
VR-105	EMCO Wheaton Retail Phase I Vapor Recovery System

*VR-103 has been incorporated into VR-101.

Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST): Table 2

Number	Description
VR-301	Standing Loss Control for Existing Installation
VR-302	Standing Loss Control for New Installation
VR-401	OPW EVR System for AST
VR-402	Morrison Brothers Phase I EVR System for AST
G-70-216	Extension of Executive Orders for Existing AST

11. Where can I obtain the CARB Stage I EVR executive orders?

The CARB Stage I EVR Executive Orders for underground tanks and aboveground tanks are available at the following links:

UST: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/vapor-recovery-phase-i-evr-executive-orders>

AST: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/vapor-recovery-phase-i-evr-ast-executive-orders>

12. What are the Stage I requirements for newly installed GDFs or new Stage I system installations at existing GDFs?

Newly installed GDFs at locations where gasoline has not been previously dispensed, or new Stage I systems at existing GDFs, must install a CARB-Certified Stage I EVR System or a Stage I system composed of CARB-certified EVR components.

13. What is required to upgrade an existing Stage I Pre-EVR system to a CARB-certified Stage I EVR system?

You should contact your Stage I testing company and/or Stage I installation contractor to determine which components need to be upgraded to CARB-certified components to meet the requirements of Part 11.

14. Who can install or upgrade a Stage I Pre-EVR system to a CARB-certified Stage I EVR system?

Any individual performing work on a GDF is required to hold a current and valid “Gas Station Ltd” license issued by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, and be familiar with applicable DEM regulations.

15. When I upgrade to a CARB-certified Stage I EVR system are Stage I compliance tests required before I commence operation?

Yes. When the Stage I installation contractor has finished installing your CARB-certified Stage I EVR system, and before commencing operations, a Stage I testing company must perform all applicable Stage I compliance tests and the system must pass all tests as outlined in [250-RICR-120-05-11.9.2\(G\)\(2\)](#).

16. Do I need any permits or approvals prior to upgrading a Stage I Pre-EVR system?

Yes. You or your contractor must do the following prior to the start of any work:

- Submit the “Proposed Installation of Stage I CARB-Certified EVR System” form to the RI DEM Department of Air Resources;
- If the Stage I system is part of an underground storage tank (UST) system, you will need to receive a permit from the RI DEM Underground Storage Tank Program prior to the start of any work. For additional information, please contact either Andrew Hook at (401) 222-2797 x7144 or Clare O’Connor at (401) 222-2797 x7121. They can also be reached via email at Andrew.hook@dem.ri.gov and clare.oconnor@dem.ri.gov
- If the Stage I system is part of an aboveground storage tank (AST) system, you may need to contact James Ball at the RI DEM Office of Emergency Response non-emergency line at (401) 222-4700 x7129
- You may need a permit from your municipal building inspector or Fire Department. Always check with your Town or City prior to beginning work;

17. Who should I contact at RI DEM if I have any questions about the Stage I regulation?

Please contact Brianna Seltzer in the Office of Air Resources for any questions related to Stage I EVR systems:

Phone: (401) 222-2808 extension 2427

Email: Brianna.seltzer@dem.ri.gov

For information, site-specific requirements, or other questions related to installation of spill containment basins, risers, or other modifications to the UST system, please call either Andrew Hook at (401) 222-2797 x7144 or Clare O’Connor at (401) 222-2797 x7121. They can also be reached via email at Andrew.hook@dem.ri.gov and clare.oconnor@dem.ri.gov

