

6. ORGANIC CHEMICAL PROCESS INDUSTRY

Possible emissions from the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products are significant, but for economic necessity are usually recovered. In some cases, the manufacturing operation either is a closed system or is vented to a combustion device with little or no process vent emissions to the atmosphere. Emission sources from chemical processes include heaters and boilers; valves, flanges, pumps and compressors; storage and transfer of products and intermediates; waste water handling; and emergency vents.

Emissions reaching the atmosphere from chemical processes are generally gaseous and are controlled by incineration, adsorption or absorption. Particulate emissions also could be a problem, since the particulate emitted is usually extremely small, requiring very efficient treatment for removal.

Emission data from chemical processes are sparse. It has been frequently necessary, therefore, to make estimates of emission factors on the basis of material balances, yields or process similarities.