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Ken Feith

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NOISE ADVISORY CIRCULAR

PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSORS

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Subject: Introductory Advisory Circular

A. Purpose

To announce the establishment of an Advisory Circular system for the Noise Control Program.

B. Background

The Environmental Protection Agency is adopting an Advisory Circular system for use in communication with industries regulated under the Noise Control Act of 1972. Since promulgation of the regulations for trucks.and compressors, many questions have been submitted to the Agency regarding the interpretation and administration of the regulations. Many questions address issues that apply to a particular company. Others, however, are of a more general nature and either do or could affect the entire industry. In order to communicate these items to all the companies in an affected industry, the Agency has decided to set up an Advisory Circular system.

C. Discussion

1. The Noise Advisory Circular System will be used for those topics which are of common interest and applicability to entire industries, and will aid industries in complying with the Act and regulations issued under its authority. Advisory Circulars will be used to communicate procedural and policy matters involving the interpretation and administration of the regulations.

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2. Advisory Circulars will be simultaneously sent to all affected persons. A master file of circulars and a master list of the topics they encompass will be maintained at the Noise Enforcement Division of EPA. Please address all inquiries to:

Director Noise Enforcement Division (EN-387) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 401 M. Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

3. Manufacturers and other persons are, of course, encouraged to continue to communicate questions to EPA through letters. The Agency will respond with letters when appropriate, as with issues pertinent to a single manufacturer. All industry correspondence dealing with promulgated regulations should be sent to the above address.

4. Advisory Circulars are not intended to replace the rulemaking process. Rather, they will be used to explain and interpret existing regulations as well as for other administrative matters. Although subject to reconsideration by the Agency, Advisory Circulars can be relied upon to reflect current EPA policy and the interpretation the Agency will follow while administering the Noise Control Act and the accompanying regulations.

D. Numbering System

1. Advisory Circulars on <u>new subjects</u> will be numbered sequentially as they are issued.

2. <u>Superseded</u> Advisory Circulars will be replaced by an Advisory Circular numbered with a letter suffix, e.g., A/C No. 6 would be replaced by A/C No. 6A. If a subsequent complete revision of A/C No. 6A were necessary, it would be replaced by A/C No. 6B.

3. <u>Amplified</u> Advisory Circulars will be supplemented by an Advisory Circular numbered with a numerical suffix, e.g., A/C No. 7-1. A second amplification would be A/C No. 7-2.

Norman D. Shutler Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mobile Source and Noise Enforcement