

From the Compliance Corner:

by Bill Morris

What's New at TCEQ

March 13, 2006 – The TCEQ has initiated the new “Field Citation Program” in four Agency programs. The majority being in the PST program.

Before – When a facility gets inspected by the TCEQ, a check list is used for compliance with current rules & regulations. If violations were found, an Agreed Order would be ultimately issued with penalties and directives.

Now – A “Field Citation” is issued, while at the facility, listing certain clear-cut violations:

	Assessed Penalty	
	Major	Minor
Failure to have a valid TCEQ Delivery Certificate	\$ 875	
Failure to implement inventory control methods	\$3,500	\$1,750
Failure to provide corrosion protection	\$3,500	\$1,750
Failure to provide a release detection method (for tanks)	\$3,500	\$1,750
Failure to provide and overfill prevention	\$3,500	\$1,750
Failure to have Stage I vapor recovery equipment	\$1,750	\$ 875
Failure to have Stage II vapor recovery	\$1,750	\$ 875

- Major = < 50,000 gallons per month dispensed Minor = > 50,000 gallons per month

If the penalty is paid within 30 days from date of inspection, and the required documentation to show that the facility is now in compliance within 60 days from the date of inspection, no further action is required.

What's the advantage of paying the penalty on the Citation? – The penalties above are 30% less than the standard penalty. If the penalty is not paid, the reduced penalty is no longer available. Other violations, such as no release detection for piping, follows traditional penalties as before.