

Changes to Fuel, Flare and Vent AER Definitions

Jurisdiction	Release/Revision Date	Location of Change in this Document	Comment
AB	July 31, 2019		Initial Release

Audience: AB Operators

Purpose: To notify operators that new definitions of fuel, flare, and vent will come into effect on January 1, 2020.

Background: As a result of the Alberta Methane Emissions Reduction requirements, Directive 060 has updated the definitions for fuel gas, flare gas, and vent gas.

Key Principles: The definitions in Directive 060 become mandatory effective January 1, 2020; however, operators are strongly encouraged to adopt these new definition changes prior to that date so they can test their systems and be prepared for when this reporting becomes mandatory.

Fuel gas: Gas that is combusted and the released energy is used in upstream oil and gas operations. Types of gas that must be reported as fuel gas include gas burned by the following:

- engines,
- catalytic heaters and other building heaters,
- process vessel burners,
- sulphur recovery unit reaction furnaces,
- line heaters, and
- thermoelectric generators

Flare gas: Gas that is combusted in a flare or incinerator at upstream oil and gas operations. Types of gas, if combusted in a flare or incinerator (including an enclosed combustor), that must be reported as flare gas include the following:

- waste gas;
- pilot gas;
- dilution and makeup gas added to a flare gas stream before flaring or incineration;
- acid gas (routine and nonroutine);
- blanket gas, purge gas, and sweep gas;
- gas used to operate pneumatic devices (instruments, pumps, and compressors starters);
- gas from dehydrator still columns;
- gas produced during well completions;
- gas produced during well unloading operations; and

- gas that is flared or incinerated as a result of equipment failures or plant upsets

Vent gas: Uncombusted gas that is released to the atmosphere at upstream oil and gas operations. Vent gas does not include fugitive emissions, but does include

- waste gas;
- gas used to operate pneumatic devices;
- gas from compressor seals, starters, and blowdowns;
- gas from facility upsets and emergency shutdowns;
- gas from dehydrator still columns;
- gas from production tanks, not including methanol and chemical tanks;
- gas released during pigging operations;
- gas produced during well completions;
- gas produced during well unloading volumes; and
- blanket gas

The new definitions also apply to EPAP Declaration Theme 10: Fuel/Flare/Vent.

For example, under the old definitions, vented pneumatic device gas was reported as FUEL, however with the new definitions this vented pneumatic device gas would now be reported as VENT.

For more details on the fuel gas, flare gas, and vent gas definitions, please refer to Appendix 2 of Directive 060, found at <https://aer.ca/> under Regulating Development.

More information:

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