

# Alternative Test Methods/Clean Air Act: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Identifies Additional Approvals



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The United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) published in the January 25th Federal Register an announcement regarding applicable alternative test method approval decisions that the federal agency recently approved under the Clean Air Act. See 89 Fed. Reg. 4942.

The applicable alternative test methods that EPA approved in 2023 were under the following programs:

- Clean Air Act New Source Performance Standards (“NSPS”)
- National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (“NESHAP”)

Approvals took place between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

Source owners and operators are allowed to use what are described as “broadly applicable alternative test methods” instead of test methods or related testing procedures required by the applicable NSPS or NESHAP.

EPA is provided the regulatory authority to approve alternative test methods if they meet certain criteria. The agency will typically announce approval of an alternative test method at some point after it is issued.

Note that utilization of an alternative test method is not mandatory (i.e., it is permissive).

The approved alternative test methods and modifications to test methods are found in Table 1 in the preamble to the Federal Register Notice.

A copy of the Federal Register Notice can be downloaded [here](#).