

RECOVERY OF PETROL VAPOUR AT A BULK STORAGE FACILITY

By

CORNELIA VENTER

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

MASTER OF ENGINEERING

(Environmental Engineering)

in the

Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

University of Pretoria

2003



DECLARATION BY STUDENT

I, CORNELIA VENTER, hereby declare that the work as contained in this document was compiled and set out by myself and it has not been submitted to any other university.

SIGNED ON THE Z4th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2003.

CORNELIA VENTER



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank Francois for all his time and the helpful contributions he made during the research and the writing of this report. I am also grateful for the assistance and valuable information from Derrick, Mortan, Richard and Steen. Lastly, I would like to thank my family and friends for their support and encouragement during this time.



RECOVERY OF PETROL AT A BULK STORAGE FACILITY

Student:

Cornelia Venter

Study leader:

JFC Friend

Department:

Chemical Engineering (Environmental Engineering Group)

Degree:

MEng (Environmental Engineering)

SYNOPSIS

VOC emissions are emitted during the various storage and distribution stages of petrol. These emissions contribute to the formation of smog and the control of these emissions has been applied internationally for some years. Vapour recovery is the preferred control technology after prevention and minimisation. The application of vapour recovery of petrol in South Africa has been limited and the first vapour recovery unit in the country was installed at the Engen-Wentworth storage and loading facility in 2001. Petrol loading data and vapour analyses data were used to determine the theoretical and experimental filling emissions from the Engen bulk storage facility. The average filling emission at the Engen facility was 0,08% compared to a value of 0,05% in Europe. It is recommended that further research be conducted to determine the vapour collection efficiency at the Engen facility, and to assess VOC emissions from the other stages in the overall petrol storage and distribution system.

KEYWORDS: volatile organic compounds, carbon vacuum adsorption process, petrol, vapour, vapour recovery systems, bulk storage facility



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| ACKN | IOWLEDGEMENTS | | i |
|------|---|---------------------------------------|------|
| | PSIS | | ii |
| | OF TABLES | | ٧ |
| | OF FIGURES | | vi |
| | REVIATIONS | | viii |
| 4.2 | EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS | | |
| CHAI | PTER 1 Introduction | | 1.1 |
| CHAI | PTER 2 Literature survey | | 2.1 |
| 2.1 | INTRODUCTION | | 2.1 |
| 2.2 | EVAPORATIVE EMISSIONS | N380005 | 2.4 |
| | 2.2.1 Displacement emissions | | 2.6 |
| | 2.2.2 Breathing and withdrawal emissions | | |
| | 2.2.3 Filling emissions | | |
| | 2.2.4 Emissions from vehicle refuelling . | | 2.8 |
| 2.3 | | | |
| 2.4 | CONTROL OF EMISSIONS | | 2.10 |
| | 2.4.1 Emission prevention and minimisati | on | 2.10 |
| | 2.4.2 Vapour recovery | | 2.12 |
| | 2.4.3 Treatment of vapour | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 2.20 |
| 2.5 | LEGISLATION REGARDING EVAPORATION | VE EMISSIONS | 2.22 |
| | 2.5.1 Overview of VOC emission legislation | on in Europe | 2.24 |
| | 2.5.2 Overview of VOC emission legislation | on in the USA | 2.24 |
| | 2.5.3 South African air pollution legislation | n | 2.25 |
| СНА | PTER 3 Process description and ex | cperimental setup | 3.1 |
| 3.1 | INTRODUCTION | | 3.1 |
| 3.2 | PROCESS DESCRIPTION | | 3.2 |
| | 3.2.1 Facility and road tanker set-up | | 3.2 |



| 3.2.2 Carbon vacuum adsorption process | 3.5 |
|---|------|
| 3.3 THEORETICAL FILLING EMISSION CALCULATION | 3.9 |
| 3.4 EXPERIMENTAL METHOD AND SETUP | 3.11 |
| | |
| CHAPTER 4 Results and discussion | 4.1 |
| 4.1 INTRODUCTION | 4.1 |
| 4.2 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS | 4.1 |
| 4.3 THEORETICAL FILLING EMISSION CALCULATIONS | 4.7 |
| 4.4 EXPERIMENTAL FILLING EMISSIONS | 4.10 |
| 4.5 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS | 4.15 |
| 4.6 INCLUSION IN SOUTH AFRICAN LEGISLATION | 4.17 |
| | |
| CHAPTER 5 Conclusions and recommendations | 5.1 |
| REFERENCES Table 4.2 Compareson of factor to be seminared for the law sous of real of | R.1 |
| APPENDIX A Liquid/vapour volume equivalence | A.1 |
| APPENDIX B TVP Nomogram | |
| APPENDIX C Typical loading data | |
| APPENDIX D VOC concentration at different temperatures | |
| APPENDIX E Fuel loading data from the Engen-Wentworth facility | |
| APPENDIX F Extract from experimental vapour data | |
| APPENDIX G One minute averaged experimental vapour data | |
| | |
| APPENDIX H Results from laboratory analysis on vapour samples | |
| APPENDIX I Examples of fuel flow compared to vapour flow | 1.1 |



LIST OF TABLES

| | | - 12 |
|-----------|---|------|
| Table 2.1 | Typical petiol vapour composition (only 100) | 2.4 |
| Table 2.2 | Filling emissions from road tanker loading | 2.8 |
| Table 2.3 | Advantages and disadvantages of condensation | 2.15 |
| Table 2.4 | Advantages and disadvantages of absorption | 2.17 |
| Table 2.5 | Advantages and disadvantages of diffusion technologies | 2.18 |
| Table 2.6 | Advantages and disadvantages of adsorption | 2.21 |
| Table 2.7 | Options selected by countries regarding 1991 VOC Protocol | 2.23 |
| Table 3.1 | Average RVP (in kPa) values at Engen, Wentworth for 2002 | 3.11 |
| Table 4.1 | Comparison of average molecular weights of vapour samples | |
| | (only VOC part) taken at Engen facility | 4.3 |
| Table 4.2 | Comparison of factor f determined for the two sets of samples | 4.8 |
| Table 4.3 | Experimental filling emission results for data collected during | |
| | October 2002 and May 2003 | 4.14 |
| Table 4.4 | List of road tankers where problems with vapour collection did | |
| | occur at the Engen facility | 4.16 |
| Table C.1 | Product loading data from Fuel Facs ⁺ ® system | C.1 |
| Table E.1 | Loading data from Engen-Wentworth facility | E.1 |
| Table F.1 | Extract of experimental vapour data (for 6 May 2003) | F.1 |
| Table G.1 | One minute averaged vapour flow values | G.1 |
| Table H.1 | Concentration of the individual thermal tube samples (1 to 4) | H.1 |
| Table H.2 | Average results based on the analysis from the four thermal | |
| | tube samples | H.1 |
| Table H.3 | Results of analysis from the four gas samples | H.2 |
| | | |



LIST OF FIGURES

| Figure 2.1 | Typical petrol distribution system | 2.3 |
|------------|---|------|
| Figure 2.2 | Evaporative emissions from petrol storage and distribution | |
| | Systems | 2.5 |
| Figure 2.3 | Theractly of vapour chilosien senser | 2.10 |
| Figure 2.4 | Bottom loading | 2.12 |
| Figure 2.5 | Petrol nozzle at service station adapted for the collection | |
| | of vapour | 2.14 |
| Figure 2.6 | Flowdiagram for condensation as vapour recovery process | 2.14 |
| Figure 2.7 | Flowdiagram for absorption vapour recovery process using | |
| | kerosene and petrol as primary and secondary absorbants | |
| | respectively | 2.16 |
| Figure 2.8 | Flowdiagram for using diffusion technology as vapour recovery | |
| | process | 2.17 |
| Figure 2.9 | Flowdiagram for using adsorption as vapour recovery process | 2.20 |
| Figure 3.1 | The Engen (Wentworth) refinery with the bulk storage and | |
| | loading facility at the foreground | 3.1 |
| Figure 3.2 | Loading racks and vapour header leading to VRU | 3.2 |
| Figure 3.3 | Vapour return hose for the transfer of vapour from a tanker | |
| | to the VRU | 3.3 |
| Figure 3.4 | Top view of modified road tanker | 3.4 |
| Figure 3.5 | Modified road tanker to allow for vapour recovery | 3.4 |
| Figure 3.6 | Carbon vacuum adsorption (CVA) process | 3.6 |
| Figure 3.7 | Vapour recovery unit at Engen-Wentworth, Durban | 3.7 |
| Figure 3.8 | Vapour recovery unit (front view) | 3.8 |



| Figure 3.9 | Separator and absorber column | 3.9 |
|-------------|---|------|
| Figure 3.10 | Ultrasonic flow meter with transducers (T ₁ and T ₂) in diagonal | 3.13 |
| | mode | 5.15 |
| Figure 3.11 | Transducers mounted in the vapour header at the Engen | |
| | facility of Sederal Regulations | 3.14 |
| Figure 4.1 | TVP versus RVP at temperatures from 20°C to 35°C | 4.5 |
| Figure 4.2 | Theoretical VOC vapour concentration (vol%), assuming | |
| | 100% saturation, as a function of RVP (kPa) and temperature | 4.6 |
| Figure 4.3 | Filling emissions (E _f) for the typical range of RVPs and temperature | s: |
| | at the Engen , Wentworth facility (E_f is the liquid equivalent volume | |
| | of VOCs in the vapour divided by the volume of petrol loaded, | |
| | expressed as a percentage | 4.10 |
| Figure 4.4 | Comparison between fuel loading data and vapour flow through | |
| | the vapour header for the period 8:09 to 14:01 on 6 May 2003 | 4.11 |
| Figure 4.5 | Vapour flow over a time period where petrol and diesel were | |
| | loaded into two different tankers | 4.13 |
| Figure B.1 | Nomogram for the determination of true vapour pressure (TVP) | |
| | from RVP and temperature (Hadley et al., 1978) | B.1 |
| Figure D.1 | Hydrocarbon (VOC) concentration (vol %) as a function of | |
| | temperature for petrol with RVP values of 70 kPa and 90 kPa, | |
| | respectively (Cool Sorption, 2001) | D.1 |



ABBREVIATIONS

BAT Best Available Technology/Technique

CAA Clean Air Act

CAPCO Chief Air Pollution Control Officer

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

CVA Carbon Vacuum Adsorption

EMCAs Environmental Management Co-operation Agreements

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

EU European Union

GLO Groundlevel Ozone

GNAs Good Neighbour Agreements

IPPC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control

NAAQSs National Ambient Air Quality Standards

ORVR Onboard Refuelling Vapour Recovery

PLV Preloading Vapour

POCP Photochemical Ozone Creation Potential

RVP Reid Vapour Pressure

TOMA Tropospheric Ozone Management Area

VOC/s Volatile Organic Compound/s

VRU Vapour Recovery Unit

UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe