

Note that at each stage in the analysis, the facility can accept enforceable permit restrictions to reduce its potential emissions so as to avoid triggering NSR. For example, a source can agree to accept permit conditions that limit potential emissions from the facility as a whole to levels below the major source thresholds, thus avoiding NSR. In addition, major sources can accept permit restrictions that will limit the emissions increase associated with a proposed modification to levels below those considered "significant." In the past, most owners or operators faced with a possible NSR source or modification took permit limitations where possible to avoid triggering the program. EPA's 2002 changes to the rules governing the calculation of significant emission increase discussed in § 4:15 have reduced the need for formal "caps" to avoid NSR. In addition, under the 2002 rules, facilities can accept a plantwide applicability limit (PAL) to avoid NSR. Where these options are not available, the facility must comply with the NSR requirements discussed below.

TABLE 4.1
Nonattainment NSR Thresholds and Offset Ratios

| Pollutant | Major Source (tpy) | Significant Modification (tpy) | Offsets ¹ |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| VOCs | Marginal: 100 Moderate: 100 Serious: 50 Severe: 25 Extreme: 10 OTR: ⁵ 50 | Marginal: 40 Moderate: 40 Serious: ² 25 Severe: ² 25 Extreme: ³ 0 OTR: ⁵ 40 | Marginal: 1.1 to 1 Moderate: 1.15 to 1 Serious: 1.2 to 1 Severe: 1.3 to 1 Extreme: ⁴ 1.5 to 1 OTR: ⁵ 1.15 to 1 |
| NO _x | Marginal: 100 Moderate: 100 Serious: 50 Severe: 25 Extreme: 10 OTR: ⁵ 100 | Marginal: 40 Moderate: 40 Serious: ² 25 Severe: ² 25 Extreme: ³ 0 OTR: ⁵ 40 | Marginal: 1.1 to 1 Moderate: 1.15 to 1 Serious: 1.2 to 1 Severe: 1.3 to 1 Extreme: ⁴ 1.5 to 1 OTR: ⁵ 1.15 to 1 |
| SO ₂ | 100 | 40 | 1 to 1 or more |
| Particulate | 100 | 25 | 1 to 1 or more |
| PM ₁₀ | Moderate: 100 Serious: 70 | Moderate: 15 Serious: 15 | Moderate: 1 to 1 or more Serious: 1 to 1 or more |
| PM _{2.5} ⁶ | 100 | Direct PM _{2.5} : 10 SO ₂ : 40 NO _x : 40 | 1 to 1 or more |
| CO | Moderate: 100 Serious: 50 | Moderate: 100 Serious: 50 | Moderate: 1 to 1 or more Serious: 1 to 1 or more |
| Lead ⁷ | 100 | 0.6 | 1 to 1 or more |

¹ These offset ratios could be increased to 2:1 if sanctions are imposed by EPA under CAA § 179 for failures in submission or implementation of a SIP or operating permit program. Sanctions are discussed more fully in § 1:24 of this Handbook.

² Under CAA § 182(c)(6), 42 U.S.C.A. § 7511a(c)(6), a modification in serious and severe nonattainment areas includes any physical change or change in method of operation that results in a net increase of more than 25 tpy of VOC or NO_x emissions when aggregated with all other net increases in emissions from the source over any period of five consecutive calendar years. This provision means, in effect, that any increase in emissions of VOCs or NO_x resulting from a modification triggers a netting analysis.

³ Any change (as described in CAA § 111(a)(4), 42 U.S.C.A. § 7411(a)(4)) at a major stationary source in an extreme ozone nonattainment area that results in any increase in emissions of VOCs