

# Fugitive Emissions Update

Experts from the new **Fugitive Emissions Summit Americas Conference (June 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>)** provide a range of views and opinions on our June special topic.

## Meeting expectations

Unfortunately production test results on end-products don't always meet expectations. This is despite the case that most production tests are executed in favourable conditions: room temperatures, reduced test pressures, and a limited number of operational cycles. Colin Zegers, owner at ITIS B.V. investigates such results and says that in certain cases the parts used in end-products

leaves something to be desired. He cites a number of possible explaining factors: different types or brands of sealing being used; differences in tolerances; or the roughness of moving parts such as the stem may be insufficient. In other cases it simply may come down to poor workmanship in regards to the assembly of the parts of the valve, he said.

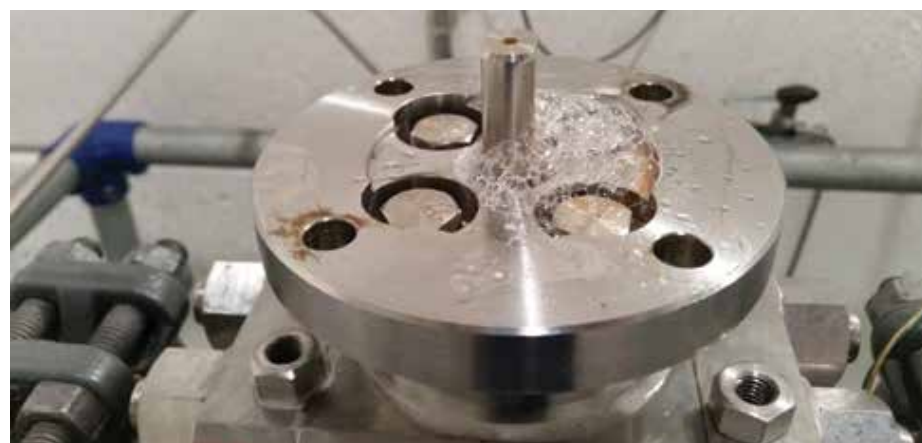
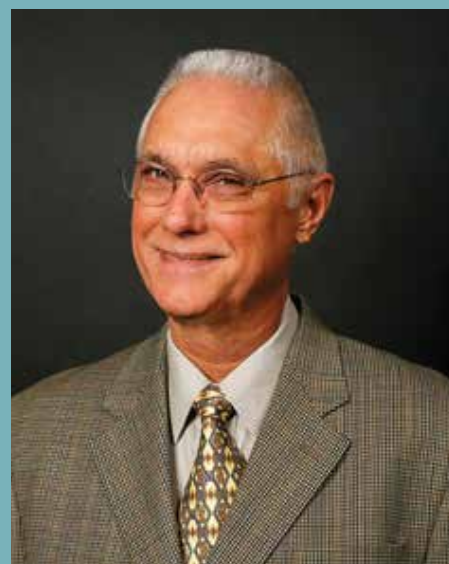


Image courtesy of ITIS B.V. - Industrial Testing & Inspection Services

## Future of monitoring



Fugitive emission control in the USA is in a state of flux. The old LDAR paradigm of find and fix leaks repetitively is no longer considered to be enough. The new emphasis is on purchasing and properly installing equipment tested to show good sealing performance. According to Graham E. "Buzz" Harris from Sage Environmental (pictured), it is doubtful that the USA will ever rely solely on equipment improvements, although some level of monitoring to detect failures such as leaks is likely to continue, he says. Eventual monitoring will likely be less frequent and/or employ less labor-intensive techniques such as optical gas imaging according to Mr. Harris.

## Fugitive Emission Summits

The Fugitive Emission Summit Americas is being held this month in Houston, Texas, from 13-14 June. Another summit will also be held in Shanghai from 20-21 September, again to provide a platform for community debate and bring together end users, EPCs, distributors, manufacturers and suppliers to discuss the challenges ahead. Chairman of Fugitive Emissions Summit Americas and Rodney Roth explained: "Fugitive emission control, Consent Decree compliance and effective management of LDAR programs have never been more important than they are today. The US EPA continues to send industrial facilities 'Notices of Violation', while pursuing the issuance of Consent Decrees with Enhanced LDAR requirements and Leak Definitions".



Rodney Roth, North American Strategic Accounts Manager – Stationary Equipment, A.W. Chesterton Company.

## The importance of sealing

Globally, the fugitive emissions conversation has grown exponentially just in the past few years. There is a much better understanding today of what is being emitted, by whom, and most importantly its significance of those emissions on the environment. Emission reduction improvements are already being planned and voluntarily implemented by industry as well as public policies being developed in order to bridge the gap and initiate improvement plans. "Fluid sealing and containment devices are instrumental to the success of any initiative to reduce fugitive emissions" said Mike Shorts, President of The Fluid Sealing Association (pictured) when contacted by Valve World last week. "The FSA represents the preeminent fluid sealing and containment device



manufacturers in the Americas who are ready to meet the challenges ahead."

## Evolutionary step

US LDAR regulations are on the cusp of an evolutionary step according to Jim Drago, Principal Applications Engineer at Garlock: "Focus has shifted from compliance to regulation; from do no more and no less to finding and fixing leaks; and it has shifted further from using technology to hunt and eliminate leaks to prevent leaks from happening in the first place. Countries developing LDAR programs, most notably China, look to US norms to guide them while we in the US are looking to take that next step to change our norms. It's a great time to be part of the process of change." Next Generation Enforcement and LDAR promote the use of technology, he said, not higher enforcement budgets, more enforcers and more of the same type of regulations we have now. "One possible concept of next generation regulations would be like controlling motorists' speed with speed bumps instead of budgeting for more traffic cops."



Jim Drago, Principal Applications Engineer, Garlock Sealing Technologies.

## QUOTES

*"Regulations are akin to controlling motorists' speed with speed bumps instead of budgeting for more traffic cops."*

Jim Drago, Principal Applications Engineer, Garlock

*"Given the important role sealing devices play in reducing methane emissions, the Fluid Sealing Association is ready to support our customers as a technical resource to meet the standards of this rule."*

Chris Swonger, SVP, Global Government Relations, Smiths Group

*"FSA members have the technology to meet emission reduction targets and are ready to support all industries in meeting the requirements of existing and future policies."*

Mike Shorts, Fluid Sealing Association (FSA) President and President of Triangle Fluid Controls Ltd

*"The current and future regulatory landscape requires Low E Valves and Low E Packing products capable of remaining below 100 ppm for five years."*

Rodney Roth, North American Strategic Accounts Manager, Stationary Equipment A.W. Chesterton

*"Prototypes for Type Approval Testing are assembled with utmost care – unfortunately test results show this doesn't always apply to production valves."*

Colin Zegers, Owner ITIS B.V., Industrial Testing & Inspection Services