



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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PAINTING REQUIREMENTS FOR OIL FIELD EQUIPMENT AND STRUCTURES

Sec. 102 (a) (8) of the "Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976" states:

"the public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use;"

In accordance with the above Act, the Bureau of Land Management has determined that all oil field equipment and structures installed on Federal leases, whether the leases contain a camouflage stipulation or not, will require painting to reduce the visual impact of color.

The following painting guidelines and procedures apply to all oilfield equipment and structures installed after the date of this notice. Painting stipulations and requirements previously issued to operators are modified to meet these guidelines and procedures.

- A. All equipment and structures (except heater treater fireboxes and stocks, small wire or galvanized fencing, and flow lines and other lines on the ground) that are located within 1/4 mile of any of the following will be camouflaged:
1. A paved road.
 2. An unpaved road which is well-traveled by non-oil field personnel (at least 50 vehicles per 24 hours).
 3. An officially-designated public use site, observation area, or overlook.

B. All equipment and structures not covered by A. above will be camouflaged using the following procedures:

1. The initial criteria to be used to determine what should be camouflaged will be the equipment or structures that can be seen one-quarter mile or beyond from the proposed location. The equipment or structures that cannot be seen from this distance should not require camouflaging.

2. As a general rule, all high-level equipment (six feet or higher) such as tanks, separators and heater treater (except the firebox and stack) will require camouflaging.

3. As a general rule, equipment such as pumping units (the tips of movable parts--such as the horsehead, weights and beam--will be painted according to OSHA requirements), flow lines or other lines on the ground, other small-size lines (4-inch diameter and smaller), low-level well head equipment and headers (up to five feet in height), and small and galvanized wire and pipe that are not normally painted will not require painting. If this type of equipment is normally painted, or painted from previous use, the contrast of color will be considered in visual assessment. It is desirable that as much equipment as possible be painted a uniform non-contrasting color if it's going to be painted anyway.

The use of semi-gloss paint in lieu of flat paint will be acceptable. Exceptions to these requirements may be allowed (exceptions must be approved by BLM and USGS on a case-by-case basis), for the following reasons:

1. Safety as described by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in part 1910.55, Title 29 of the Code of the Federal Regulations "Safety Color Code for Marking Physical Hazards".
2. Function identification which might aid in the identification of materials conveyed as described in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) document A13.1 (Scheme for the Identification of Piping Systems"; or
3. To aid in the functional use of certain types of equipment (i.e., painting equipment a dark color to absorb heat to aid flow of high viscous liquids or a light color to prevent loss of hydrocarbons by evaporation).