



**Alabama Department of Environmental Management**  
**adem.alabama.gov**

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 ■ Post Office Box 301463  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463  
(334) 271-7700 ■ FAX (334) 271-7950

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**MEMORANDUM**

From: Ronald W. Gore, Chief  
ADEM-Air Division

To: Smoke School Attendees

RE: Visible Emissions Certification Requirements

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management's Visible Emissions (VE) Certification Program (Smoke School) is attended by a wide variety of industry personnel. Many of Alabama's regulated facilities send numerous employees to Smoke School semiannually in order to receive and/or maintain their VE certification. This practice can be very expensive, especially when you factor in the total cost of travel, fees, food, lodging and loss of productivity for each individual. Although, a valid certification is required to conduct a Method 9 observation for compliance purposes, not all facilities are required by regulation to perform VE observations on a routine basis. In an effort to reduce unnecessary expense to the regulated community, it is suggested that each of you determine if your facility is subject to federal and/or state regulations that require performing routine Method 9 observations by a certified observer. If you are unsure of your company's requirements or you have questions, please consult your primary Air Division contact at (334)-270-7861.

amg/smd

