**DESCRIPTION OF FIDO CHART AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING NUISANCE ODORS**

Texas created the FIDO (Frequency, Intensity, Duration, and Offensiveness ) Chart for evaluation of nuisance odors. This chart is an attempt to incorporate the four primary characteristics of odor (Frequency, Intensity, Duration, and Offensiveness) in one tool. Texas developed the tool to assist investigators in making a determination about whether an observed odor is a violation of their rule against creating a nuisance.

*Step 1 -Determine Offensiveness:* The first thing to do when using the chart is to determine the offensiveness of the odor using the lists on the back of the chart (page 14). For example, Blood Drying Operations are considered a Highly Offensive Odor, and Landfill Garbage/Waste is considered Offensive. Each of the 4 tables on the front of the chart reflects one of the four offensiveness levels. So determining what the offensiveness of the observed odor is tells you which of the four tables to use to plot what you are observing in the field (page 13).

*Step 2- Frequency and Duration:* Once the offensiveness level is determined, you plot on that table the frequency and duration of the odor that the complainant has been subjected to. This may be by direct observation, or, more likely, by evaluation of evidence collected while conducting an investigation. If the frequency/duration plot falls within a block on the table that is not colored (NA appears in the block), the odor is not considered a nuisance violation. If it does fall within a colored block (red, dark blue, green, yellow, or light blue), then the Intensity of the observed odor must be at least as strong as the intensity represented by that block for the observed odor to be considered a nuisance.

For Example, gasoline and diesel fuel are considered Unpleasant Odor on the table on page 14. If a complainant experiences such an odor for 10 minutes at a time on a weekly basis, the table on page 13 says that the intensity must be greater than Very Strong in order to be a nuisance (and there is no level greater than Very Strong). If however, the complainant experiences the same odor for 10 minutes at a time on a weekly basis (more frequently), the odor would have to be at least Very Strong to be considered a nuisance. In that case, the odor would be considered a nuisance if the odor is Very Strong, but not a nuisance if the odor is only Strong (or less intense).

For more information, contact

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<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/complaints/odor_complaint.html>

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