



## What is Oil Mist?

Oil within a machine is subjected to high temperatures and pressures during operation, which can result in the creation of oil mist. The mist typically consists of oil droplets ranging in size from  $10\mu\text{m}$  down to  $0.03\mu\text{m}$  and when vented into the atmosphere is normally visible as a blue-white smoke.

## The Problem

Large high speed rotating equipment such as turbines and compressors use recirculated oil for lubricating and cooling the bearings. The mechanical forces generate small particles and the high temperatures cause the lubricating oil to vaporize. These vapours condense into small particles upon cooling. These small particles form the "blue haze" that exhausts from the reservoir vent. In addition to being an air pollutant, this oil mist coats the surrounding area causing safety and housekeeping problems.