

**AMENDMENTS TO NESHAP FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR AREA
SOURCES: PLATING AND POLISHING:
DIRECT FINAL RULE/PARALELL PROPOSAL**

FACT SHEET

ACTION

- On June 15, 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued direct final amendments to the air toxic standards for the plating and polishing area source category. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- On June 12, 2008, EPA issued final air toxics standards for the plating and polishing area source category. This final rule established emission standards in the form of management practices for new and existing tanks, thermal spraying equipment, and mechanical polishing equipment in certain plating and polishing processes.
- The direct final amendments clarify that the plating and polishing area source rule does not apply to any bench-scale activities. Bench-scale is defined to be any operation that is small enough to be performed on a bench, table, or similar structure so that the equipment is not directly contacting the floor.
- The 1990 air toxics inventory used as a baseline to support the area source listing of the plating and polishing area source category did not include air toxic emissions from bench-scale activities. Thus, the proposed amendment clarifies that the emission control requirements of the plating and polishing area source rule do not apply to bench-scale activities.
- The direct final amendments also make several technical corrections and clarifications to the rule's text to reduce misinterpretations. These corrections and clarifications do not make material changes in the rule's requirements.
- EPA is publishing these changes as a direct final rule because the changes are noncontroversial and no adverse comments are anticipated. If adverse comments are received, EPA will address the comments in a subsequent final rule based on a parallel proposal that is being issued in conjunction with the direct final rule amendments.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- EPA does not expect metal air toxics emissions to increase as a result of these amendments because bench-scale operations are very small operations that use very low amounts of chemicals; some bench-scale operations also only operate for short periods of time.
- This direct final rule will not result in additional costs or additional emission reductions of air toxics.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 188 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the proposed rule, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- For further information about the rule, contact Dr. Donna Lee Jones, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5251 or Jones.DonnaLee@epa.gov.