

11/15/01

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENT TO FINAL AIR TOXICS RULE FOR PESTICIDE ACTIVE INGREDIENT PRODUCTION

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking final action to amend its rule for pesticide active ingredient (PAI) production by revising the definition of "process tank" to improve the clarity of the requirements of the rule.
- ! Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known, or suspected, to cause cancer and other serious health problems. Air toxics are emitted during the PAI manufacturing process, which consists mainly of chemical operations used to produce insecticide, herbicide, and fungicide pesticide products. These products are typically used in the agricultural industry for treating insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds, or any other forms of life considered to be pests.
- ! Today's amendment will not change the health and environmental effects of the rule, and it will not change the requirement that new and existing major sources control air toxics emissions.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to identify industrial or "source" categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. For categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ! EPA issued the final air toxics rule for PAI production in June 1999. Several petitioners filed for review of the rule, including the American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute (ACCCI). The ACCCI and EPA have reached a settlement agreement which provides that EPA will promulgate a rule to revise the definition of the term "process tank" as used in the 1999 rule. The amended definition addresses ACCCI questions about which tanks are part of the processes subject to the final regulation. Issues raised by other petitioners will be addressed in a future notice.
- ! PAI manufacturing operations covered by the air toxics rule are primarily chemical synthesis

processes. The major air toxics to be controlled include methyl chloride, methanol, toluene, and hydrogen chloride. These pollutants can cause reversible or irreversible toxic effects following exposure.

WHAT THE AMENDMENT WOULD DO

- ! This amendment eliminates an inconsistency in the definition of process tank and clarifies the differences between a process tank and a storage tank. The revised definition helps distinguish which tanks are part of the process subject to the rule.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! For further information about the action, contact Randy McDonald of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5402.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.