

8-14-98

FACT SHEET

NOTICE OF FINAL LISTING OF AUTOMOBILE REFINISH COATINGS, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND ARCHITECTURAL COATINGS FOR REGULATION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT (SECTION 183(e))

TODAY'S ACTION

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a final listing which prioritizes three categories of consumer and commercial products for regulation under the Clean Air Act; automobile refinish coatings, consumer products, and architectural coatings. Consumer and commercial products include surface coating products used in industrial manufacturing operations; personal care products (e.g., deodorants); household cleaning products and household pesticides.
- ◆ In a related action, EPA is today issuing final regulations to control volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from automobile refinish coatings, consumer products and architectural coatings. VOCs contribute significantly to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act, EPA was required to 1) study emissions of VOCs from consumer and commercial products; 2) list those categories of products that account for at least 80 percent of the total VOC emissions on a reactivity-adjusted basis in areas of the country that fail to meet the national air quality standards set for ground-level ozone; and 3) divide the list into four groups, and regulate one group every two years using best available controls, as defined by the Clean Air Act.
- ◆ The EPA issued a study and report to Congress in March of 1995, Study of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Consumer and Commercial Products, which evaluated the contribution of VOC emissions from consumer and commercial products on ground-level ozone levels, and established criteria for prioritizing and a schedule for regulating these products under the Clean Air Act.
- ◆ In March 1995, EPA included automobile refinish, consumer products and architectural coatings among the highest priority consumer and commercial product categories listed for regulation.
- ◆ In the initial listing notice, EPA announced that the Agency would take comment on the listing in connection with the rulemakings for the categories and that final

action on the listing for each category would occur on publication of a final rule for that category.

- ◆ Since EPA received comments on the study, Report to Congress, and listing which are common to the automobile refinish, consumer products, and architectural coatings rules, the final listing actions for these three rules are presented in one notice along with the summary of significant comments and EPA's responses to those comments.
- ◆ Based on consideration of comments on the three rules as well as comment on the study and Report to Congress, EPA has concluded that these three categories are properly within the first group of products for regulation under Section 183(e).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ◆ Interested parties can download the Federal Register notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>). For technical questions about this action, contact Bruce Moore at (919) 541-5460 or by electronic mail at moore.bruce@epa.gov.
- ◆ The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).