

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS RULE FOR ELASTOMER PRODUCTION

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a final regulation to reduce emissions of air toxics from the manufacture of certain elastomers.
- ◆ These elastomers are used to produce a variety of synthetic rubber products, including tires, hoses, belts, footwear, adhesives, caulks, wire insulation, seals, floor tiles, and latexes.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ◆ Emissions of a number of air toxics will be reduced by the rule, including styrene, hexane, and toluene. Air toxics are those pollutants known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects.
- ◆ EPA's final rule will reduce emissions of air toxics by approximately 6,400 tons annually, representing about a 50 percent reduction from current levels.
- ◆ Today's action demonstrates EPA's commitment to making pollution prevention an integral part of regulatory actions whenever possible. EPA's final rule will require facilities to use a pollution prevention technique to reduce the amount of air toxics released into the atmosphere during the initial stages of the manufacturing process.
- ◆ EPA's final rule contains a market-based provision, "emissions averaging," that will allow facilities flexibility to choose certain emissions points to control in order to achieve the required emissions reductions in the most cost effective manner possible. In some situations, facilities may find it more cost effective to overcontrol certain emissions points and undercontrol others, so that the overall result will be greater emissions reductions at lesser control costs. The rule spells out how facilities may use emissions averaging and which emissions points may be included.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 189 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that will require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- ◆ On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups (known as "source categories") to be regulated, which included major sources that manufacture certain types of elastomers, rubber, and latexes.

WHO MUST COMPLY WITH THE REGULATION?

- ◆ There are 36 facilities nationwide that will be affected by the rule.
- ◆ EPA's final rule covers nine of the thirty-eight polymers and resins source categories that may be regulated under the air toxics provision of the Clean Air Act.

WHAT DOES THE FINAL RULE REQUIRE?

- ◆ EPA's final rule will set an emissions limit for the following emissions points at affected sources: storage tanks, process vents, equipment leaks, and wastewater systems.
- ◆ The monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements are outlined in the rule.

HOW MUCH WILL THE RULE COST?

- ◆ The estimated capital costs of the rule will be about \$26 million.
- ◆ The estimated annual costs of the rule will be about \$19 million.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

- ◆ Anyone with a computer and a modem can download the rule from the Clean Air Act Amendments bulletin board (under "Recently Signed Rules") on EPA's Technology Transfer Network (TTN) by calling (919) 541-5742. For further information about how to access the bulletin board, call (919) 541-5384. For further information about the rule, contact Mr. Robert Rosensteel at (919) 541-5608.