

# FINAL RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM SURFACE COATING OF METAL CANS

## FACT SHEET

### ACTION

- ! On August 14, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final rule to reduce toxic air pollutant emissions from metal can surface coating operations. Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental effects.
  
- ! The final rule applies to new, reconstructed and existing facilities that are a “major source” of air toxics or are part of a facility that is a “major source” of air toxics.. A “major source” emits 10 tons per year or more of a single toxic air pollutant listed in the Clean Air Act or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of those pollutants.
  
- ! Metal can surface coating operations include processes that coat metal cans or ends (including decorative tins) or metal crowns or closures during any stage of the can manufacturing process. The coating operations affected by this rule include four subcategories. These processes are known as:
  - one- and two- piece draw iron can body coating;
  - sheetcoating;
  - three-piece can assembly; and
  - end coating.Coating materials applied include basecoats, decorative inks, end seal or end lining compounds, side seam stripes, inside sprays, interior lacquers, overvarnishes, and repair spray coatings.
  
- ! EPA estimates that there are approximately 142 existing metal can surface coating operations nationwide that will be affected by this rule. No new sources are anticipated to be constructed within the 5-year period following publication of the final rule.
  
- ! The final rule will require existing facilities that are subject to the rule to limit air toxic emissions. These facilities will have up to 3 years from the date of publication of the final rule to comply with its requirements.
  
- ! For both new and existing sources, the emission limits can be met by pollution prevention techniques such as using coatings that contain little or no air toxics.

### BENEFITS AND COST

- ! The final rule will reduce total emissions of air toxics by approximately 6,800 tons per year.

This represents a 70 percent reduction from the estimated 1997 baseline.

- ! Many of these air toxics are also volatile organic compounds. These compounds contribute significantly to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog, which has been shown to cause adverse effects on human health and can damage forests and crops.
- ! EPA estimates that the total nationwide annualized cost would be about \$58.7 million per year.
- ! EPA assessed the impact of this rule on small businesses and determined that it will not significantly impact them.

## **BACKGROUND**

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, 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 pollutants. The Act further requires EPA to develop emissions standards requiring stringent air pollution reduction measures for each of the identified source categories.
- ! EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated includes surface coating of metal cans.
- ! Metal can surface coating operations emit a number of toxic air pollutants including ethylene glycol monobutyl ether (EGBE), xylenes, glycol ethers (not including EGBE), methyl ethyl ketone, hexane, and methyl isobutyl ketone. The health effects associated with exposure to these air toxics can include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! To download the standard from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.
- ! For general information about the standards, contact Mr. Paul Almodovar of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-0283, or by electronic mail at: [almodovar.paul@epa.gov](mailto:almodovar.paul@epa.gov). Or visit the metal can manufacturing (surface coating) website at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/mcan/mcanpg.html>
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.

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