



Public Workshop on Use of Methylene Chloride in Furniture Refinishing
in collaboration with the Small Business Administration
Office of Advocacy



Date: September 12, 2017

Location: Boston, MA, with Remote Participation

Purpose: The purpose of this public meeting is to address information gaps on methylene chloride in paint and coating removal during furniture refinishing. This information will allow EPA to better understand current work practices and obtain additional information on potential economic impacts to commercial furniture refinishers from any action on methylene chloride for paint and coating removal in the furniture refinishing sector. These information gaps were identified in the January 19, 2017, proposed rule that deferred action on the use of methylene chloride in furniture refinishing. While there is concern that methylene chloride poses health risks to workers, furniture refinishers rely heavily on methylene chloride for paint and coating removal.

Questions: Speakers from furniture refinishing businesses, manufacturers, NGOs, states, and others will share expertise on the following information areas, as included in the January 2017 proposed rule:

- What percent of business for firms in this sector is paint and coating removal, versus furniture repair, reupholster, or other furniture refinishing functions?
- How likely is it that firms in this sector would close if methylene chloride were prohibited from use in paint and coating removal in this sector?
- What would the impact be on this sector if all firms were prohibited from using methylene chloride for paint and coating removal, and thus any changes in work processes or dwell time would be universally experienced?
- Have firms had any success with substitute chemicals or alternative methods of paint and coating removal? If not, which aspects of the chemical or method renders the substitute or alternative ineffective?
- What are the current experiences with firms in this sector with supplied air respirators and/or engineering controls?
- What is the current experience of firms in this sector with ventilation systems, makeup-air systems, and other engineering controls?
- What types of exposures do workers in firms in these sectors currently experience?
- What are the current considerations when selecting a paint and coating removal chemical for furniture refinishing or refinishing of other wood objects or surfaces?

- What are the current considerations when selecting a paint and coating removal method for furniture refinishing or refinishing of other wood objects or surfaces?
- Are there substitute chemicals or alternative methods in use beyond what EPA has identified in the notice published on January 19, 2017 (82 FR 7464)?
- Are any new paint and coating removal product formulations or chemistries under development?
- Are any new paint and coating removal methods in development for furniture refinishing or refinishing of other wood objects or surfaces?

Goals of the Workshop: This workshop will help EPA and all stakeholders better understand current trends and challenges in furniture refinishing with respect to methylene chloride, and fill the data gaps addressed in the proposed rule on methylene chloride and NMP in paint and coating removal. Federal and state governments, industry professionals, furniture restoration experts, non-government organizations, and academic experts, among others, will discuss the role of methylene chloride in furniture restoration.

Meeting Logistics: The meeting will be available by remote access for registered participants. To facilitate remote participation, an operated assisted conference line will be used to schedule the speakers. EPA has also established a public docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) for those who wish to submit information (docket ID EPA-HQ-OPPT-2017-0139). Written comments and materials will also be accepted and should be submitted before November 12, 2017.

The Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy is an independent office within the Executive Branch responsible for representing the views of small businesses to Federal agencies and Congress. The Office of Advocacy is collaborating with EPA on its outreach to small businesses concerned about this rule and will work with EPA to minimize impacts of the final rule on small businesses.

For more information and any background documents, please [visit:](https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/methylene-chloride)
<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/methylene-chloride>

Instructions to register for the workshop, including on how to participate by phone and webinar, can be found here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-epa-public-meeting-on-methylene-chloride-in-furniture-refinishing-tickets-36895406153>

Agenda
Workshop on Furniture Refinishing and Methylene Chloride
Location: EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA

Opening Session	
9:00	Introduction Doug Parsons, Chemical Control Division, EPA
9:00-9:05	Welcome Remarks Susan Studlien, Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship EPA Region 1, Boston MA
9:05-9:15	EPA Activities on Methylene Chloride Maria J. Doa, PhD, Director, Chemical Control Division, EPA
9:15-9:25	Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, David Rostker, Assistant Chief Counsel for Environment and Regulatory Reform
9:25-9:30	Information Helpful for Economic Analysis Judith Brown, Chemistry, Economics, and Sustainable Strategies Division, EPA
Speakers	
Speakers will have approximately 15 minutes for remarks, followed by 5 to 10 minutes for questions from EPA and other participants, pending time and interest. There will be three sessions throughout the day for public comment.	
9:30-9:55	Greg Morose, ScD, Toxics Use Reduction Institute Safer and Effective Solvents for Paint Stripping
9:55-10:20	Katy Wolf, PhD, Institute for Research and Technical Assistance Safer Alternatives to Methylene Chloride Paint Strippers for Furniture Stripping
10:20-10:40 Public Comment	
10:40-11:00 Break	
11:00-11:20	Caleb P. Hemphill, Preservation Carpenter Use of Methylene Chloride, Citrus Based Products, Steam in Paint Removal
11:20-11:40	Guy Woods, Green Products Company Use of Methylene Chloride and Alternatives in Furniture Refinishing
11:40-12:00	Valeri Lennon and Benny Bixenman, Benco Sales Use of Methylene Chloride and Alternatives in Furniture Refinishing
12:00-1:00 Lunch	
1:00-1:20	Tod Leedberg, New Hampshire DES, Hazardous Waste Compliance Section Analysis of Waste Disposal Practices from Furniture Refinishing Facilities
1:20-1:40	Patrick Mitchell, The Strip Joint Use of Methylene Chloride and Alternatives in Furniture Refinishing
1:40-2:00	Lindsay McCormick, Environmental Defense Fund Perspective from NGO Community

2:00-2:20	Break
2:20-2:40	Dennis Shireman, WM Barr Use of Methylene Chloride and Current Research on Alternative Paint Removal Chemicals
2:40-3:00	Dave Macfee, Macfee Refinishing State of the Furniture Refinishing Industry, Use of Methylene Chloride, and Work Practices
3:00-3:15	Robert Harrison, MD, MPH, Public Health Medical Officer California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch California Department of Public Health - activities on methylene chloride
	Additional Public Comments
Adjourn	Wrap Up