

FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE TO REDUCE AIR TOXICS EMISSIONS FROM AREA SOURCE PAINTS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

ACTION

- On November 16, 2009 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized national emissions standards for toxic air pollutants from paints and allied products manufacturing facilities that are considered to be area sources under the Clean Air Act. Paints and allied products manufacturing include materials such as a paint, ink, or adhesive.
- Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects. Area sources emit less than 10 tons per year of a single air toxic, or less than 25 tons per year of a mixture of air toxics.
- The final rule reduces emissions of toxic air pollutants and applies to paints and allied products manufacturing facilities that process, use, or generate materials containing the following toxic air pollutants: benzene, methylene chloride, and compounds of cadmium, chromium, lead, and nickel. EPA will address limits of volatile organic compounds of paints in a separate consumer products rulemaking later this year.
- All facilities subject to the rule are required to operate a particulate control device to reduce emissions of metal air toxics and use management practices to control volatile air toxics emissions.
- To comply with the final rule, a facility will need to meet requirements for monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting. In addition, within 180 days of the effective date of the final rule, facilities will be required to notify EPA that they are an affected source. After this initial notification, each facility will be required to prepare an annual compliance certification for the previous calendar year only if they do not meet the requirements of the rule.
- For demonstrating ongoing compliance, the requirements include daily, weekly, and annual inspections, semi-annual visible emission testing, monthly checklists, and annual certifications that the management practices are being followed and the particulate control device is being properly operated.
- The schedule for completing this rule is part of a consent decree with Environmental Defense, which requires the EPA Administrator to finalize this rule by November 16, 2009.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- Existing area sources that are affected by this rule are generally well-controlled as a result of state permitting requirements, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, and reformulation of their products to reduce the toxic content.
- Most of the facilities in this source category are small businesses. EPA estimates that 110 of the 2190 facilities are subject to the rule for volatile air toxics and will incur a total annualized cost of \$5,500/yr (an average of \$50 per facility). Fewer than 25 percent of the 2190 facilities (460) are subject to the rule for metal air toxics and will incur a total annualized cost of \$3.1 million/yr (an average of \$6,700 per facility).
- Through compliance with this rule, total particulate matter emissions will be reduced by 6,300 tons/yr and total metal air toxics emissions by 4.2 tons/yr. Requiring the use of process vessel covers as required in this rule will reduce nationwide volatile air toxics emissions by about 170 tons/yr.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more of the listed 187 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- Major sources of air toxics emit 10 tons per year of a single air toxic or 25 tons per year of a mixture of air toxics. Examples include chemical plants and steel mills. Area sources release smaller amounts of toxic pollutants into the air—less than 10 tons per year of a single air toxic, or less than 25 tons per year of a mixture of air toxics. Examples include neighborhood dry cleaners and gas stations. Though emissions from individual area sources are often relatively small, collectively their emissions can be of concern—particularly where large numbers of sources are located in heavily populated areas.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy. Paints and allied products manufacturing facilities are included on the area source category list.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies or management practices (GACT) rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.

- This air toxics rule is being developed in response to the requirements in section 112(k) of the Clean Air Act and is being issued at this time in response to a court order that directs EPA to issue final rules for area sources every six months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the final rule, go to EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- For further information about the rule for paints and allied products manufacturing, contact Ms. Melissa Payne of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3609 or Payne.Melissa@epa.gov.