

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR AREA SOURCES IN THE NINE METAL FABRICATION AND FINISHING SOURCE CATEGORIES

ACTION

- On June 13, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final national air toxics standards for smaller-emitting sources, known as area sources, for nine metal fabrication and finishing source categories. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- These standards affect any new or existing facility that performs metal fabrication or finishing operations which uses or emits compounds of cadmium, chromium, lead, manganese, and nickel; or uses or emits elemental forms of all except lead. The rule covers area sources in the following nine industries:
 - (1) electrical and electronic equipment finishing operations;
 - (2) fabricated metal products manufacturing;
 - (3) fabricated plate work (boiler shops) manufacturing;
 - (4) fabricated structural metal manufacturing;
 - (5) heating equipment manufacturing, except electric;
 - (6) industrial machinery and equipment finishing operations;
 - (7) iron and steel forging;
 - (8) primary metal products manufacturing; and
 - (9) valves and pipe fittings manufacturing.
- Facilities affected by this rule perform the same air toxics-emitting operations, and the emissions are controlled in the same way. As such, EPA decided to regulate the sources collectively rather than individually.
- The final rule covers the following processes: dry abrasive blasting, dry grinding and dry polishing with machines, machining, spray-painting and coating, and welding operations which use or emit the above pollutants.
- The final rule includes management practices and equipment standards for the affected processes. Management practices include:
 - minimizing excess dust in areas around processes;
 - spray gun cleaning techniques that minimize atomization of cleaning material;
 - spray painting worker training; and
 - use of low fume welding techniques.
- Equipment standards include:
 - use of control devices such as cartridge filters;
 - high-volume, low-pressure spray techniques; and
 - paint spray booth particulate filters.

- Facilities in this industry will also be required to submit one-time notifications of applicability and compliance status, prepare and submit annual compliance certification reports, and submit reports of emissions exceedences. Some facilities will be required to perform visible emissions monitoring, and keep records to show compliance with the requirements of the rule.
- Facilities affected by this rule are not subject to the miscellaneous coating requirements in the rule, “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Paint Stripping and Miscellaneous Surface Coating Operations at Area Sources.”
- Also, EPA is not requiring performance testing for affected facilities.
- EPA estimates that approximately, 5,800 existing facilities in the nine metal fabrication and finishing area source categories are affected by the rule.
- Existing facilities in the nine metal fabrication and finishing area source categories are currently well-controlled in terms of air toxics emissions as a result of state and national standards, permitting requirements, and/or management practices already taken by the area source categories to reduce air toxics and improve the work environment.
- Since 1990, these facilities have reduced their air impacts by implementing voluntary controls. These controls have reduced emissions of metal air toxics from 85 to 100 percent among the various processes (where 100 percent control refers to processes that were once open and are now totally enclosed). Although there are no additional air emission reductions as a result of this rule, we believe that this rule will assure that the emission reductions made by the industry since 1990 will be maintained.
- The rule will have little cost impact on existing area sources, averaging approximately \$569 per facility per year on-going costs, for monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping.
- EPA is exempting area sources in the metal fabrication and finishing industry from obtaining operating permits, called Title V permits, except where an affected facility is required to obtain a Title V permit for reasons other than being subject to the final rule.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more of 187 listed toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- For major sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest-emitting (also called best-performing) plants. Major sources are those that emit 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic air pollutant or 25 tons a year or more of a combination of air toxics.

- Area sources are commercial and industrial operations that release lesser quantities of toxic pollutants into the air. Area sources emit less than 10 tons per year of a single air toxic, or less than 25 tons per year of a combination of air toxics. Sources that emit more than these amounts are characterized as "major" sources.
- 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 (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- Further, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to (1) identify the toxic air pollutants that pose the greatest threat to public health in urban areas and (2) identify and list the area source categories that represent 90 percent of the emissions of the urban air toxics associated with area sources and regulate them to ensure that the emissions of these "urban" air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- EPA published the Strategy on July 19, 1999, in the *Federal Register* that included:
 - A list of the 33 air toxics that present the greatest threat to public health in the largest number of urban areas. Of these 33 urban air toxics, EPA has identified the 30 with the greatest contribution from smaller commercial and industrial operations or "area" sources, as defined in the Clean Air Act. (See <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/list33.html> for the full list.)
 - A list of 29 area source categories that contribute to the emissions of these 30 listed air toxics. Subsequent notices published on June 26 and November 22, 2002, added 41 source categories to this list of area sources and fulfilled the Clean Air Act requirement to identify and list area source categories for at least 90 percent of the emissions of the 30 "listed" (or area source) HAPs. The nine metal fabrication and finishing source categories included in today's final rule are included in this list of area sources. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the notice, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- Today's final rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.

- The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters Library, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0306.
- For further information about the final rule, contact Dr. Donna Lee Jones of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) at (919) 541-5251 or Jones.Donnalee@epa.gov.