

**AMENDMENTS TO NESHAP FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR AREA  
SOURCES: PLATING AND POLISHING: FINAL RULE  
FACT SHEET**

**ACTION**

- On September 19, 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final amendments to the air toxic standards for the plating and polishing area source category. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- On June 12, 2008, EPA issued final air toxics standards for the plating and polishing area source category. This final rule established emission standards in the form of management practices for new and existing tanks, thermal spraying equipment and mechanical polishing equipment in certain plating and polishing processes.
- The final amendments clarify that the plating and polishing area source rule does not apply to any bench-scale activities. Bench-scale is defined as any operation that is small enough to be performed on a bench, table or similar structure so that the equipment does not directly contact the floor.
- The 1990 air toxics inventory used as a baseline to support the area source listing of the plating and polishing area source category, did not include air toxic emissions from bench-scale activities. Thus, the final amendment clarifies that the emission control requirements of the plating and polishing area source rule do not apply to bench-scale activities.
- The final amendments also make several technical corrections and clarifications to the rule's text to reduce misinterpretations. These corrections and clarifications do not make material changes in the rule's requirements.
- On June 20, 2011 the EPA published a direct final rule in conjunction with the proposed amendments for plating and polishing area sources. Since one adverse comment was received, EPA has addressed the comment in this final rule and is withdrawing the direct final rule amendments in the same action.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS**

- EPA does not expect metal air toxics emissions to increase as a result of these amendments because bench-scale operations are very small operations and use very low amounts of chemicals. Some bench-scale operations also only operate for short periods of time.
- This direct final rule will not result in additional costs or emission reductions of air toxics.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more of the listed 188 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- 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.
- 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 rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy the proposed rule, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- For further information about the rule, contact Dr. Donna Lee Jones, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5251 or [Jones.DonnaLee@epa.gov](mailto:Jones.DonnaLee@epa.gov).