

FACT SHEET
Final Rule Amendments to the Air Toxics Standards for the
Manufacturing of Nutritional Yeast

ACTION

- On October 2, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) for facilities manufacturing nutritional yeast. This rule will further reduce emissions of acetaldehyde, which is suspected to cause cancer and other negative health and environmental effects.
- The EPA issued the Manufacturing of Nutritional Yeast air toxics emission standards in 2001. The rule applies to facilities that manufacture baker's yeast (for human consumption) using fermentation.
- This action finalizes the results of the residual risk and technology reviews required by the Clean Air Act.
 - The EPA determined that no changes needed to be made to the 2001 standards on the basis of the risk and technology reviews.
- The EPA has determined, however, that the following changes are necessary and will be finalized in this action:
 - Ensure that emission standards require continuous emission reductions by:
 - Revising the form of the emission limits; and
 - Removing emission limit exemptions during periods of malfunction.
 - Modernize and correct deficiencies in the testing, monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements by:
 - Removing an option to estimate emissions using an annual performance test;
 - Requiring the collection of emissions data at all times;
 - Requiring routine evaluations of the performance of the emissions monitoring system (once every 3 years); and
 - Requiring electronic reporting.
- The revised form of the emission limits requires sources to average volatile organic compound emissions for each fermentation stage on a rolling 12-month period. This method applies a discount factor of 5 percent to the existing emission limits to ensure that the revisions maintain the level of emission reductions required by the current standard. The EPA is allowing facilities to use an alternative compliance option that requires each batch to meet existing emission limits and offers streamlined reporting requirements.

RESIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to assess the risk remaining after application of the final air toxics standards. This is known as a residual risk assessment.
- Based on the completed risk assessment, available health information and associated uncertainties, the EPA determined risks from the manufacturing of nutritional yeast sector to be acceptable and provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health.

TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to assess, review and revise air toxics standards as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes and control technologies since the standards were first issued.
- The technology assessment for nutritional yeast did not identify any technological developments within this source category to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to regulate toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, from categories of industrial facilities in two phases.
- The Nutritional Yeast Manufacturing NESHAP is one of 96 air toxics standards that requires industry to eliminate toxic air pollutants that are listed by Congress in the Clean Air Act.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final rule notice, go to the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/manufacturing-nutritional-yeast-national-emission-standards>.
- Today's action notice and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the 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 at EPA Headquarters library, room number 3334 in the EPA WJC West Building, 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-2015-0730.
- For further technical information about the rule contact Allison Costa, in the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-1322 or costa.allison@epa.gov.