

FACT SHEET

Proposed Amendments to the National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings

ACTION

- On September 10, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the National Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings, which is a national reactivity-based regulation for aerosol spray paints.
- In 2017 and 2020, the American Coatings Association petitioned EPA and requested the rule be updated to resolve inconsistencies and reduce burdens and costs on the aerosol coatings industry.
- In this proposed action, EPA is addressing the petitioner's requests to add new compounds and reactivity factors, and to revise the default reactivity factor.
- The agency is also proposing to update the coating category emission limits, revise the threshold for VOCs covered by the rule, add electronic reporting provisions consistent with recent rulemakings, and make clarifying edits.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires control of VOC emissions from certain categories of consumer and commercial products (including aerosol coatings) to help minimize VOC emissions that contribute to ozone formation.
 - When VOCs are released into the atmosphere, they undergo a reaction that creates ozone. Different VOCs have different levels of reactivity, meaning they do not react to form ozone at the same speed or do not form ozone to the same extent.
- The National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings establish nationwide standards based on the varying reactivity rates of VOCs. This approach encourages the use of less reactive VOC ingredients and, thereby, results in a greater reduction in ozone formation (as compared to reductions achieved using a traditional mass-based approach where all VOC ingredients in a product are treated equally).
- The Aerosol Coatings source category is comprised of approximately 46 regulated sources and includes aerosol coatings manufacturers, processors, wholesale distributors, and importers of aerosol coatings or their suppliers. Two companies account for about 70 percent of the U.S. market, and the remaining sources are a mixed group of smaller aerosol marketing companies and larger coating suppliers.
 - The larger suppliers provide compliant coating formulations to small businesses in the aerosol coatings sector. Under this scenario, a rule provision allows the large businesses to become the regulated entity and certify that they will meet all recordkeeping and reporting requirements under the rule.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comment on the proposed amendments for 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.
- Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0971 may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
 - Send comments by email to a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0971.
- Out of an abundance of caution for members of the public and our staff, the EPA Docket Center and Reading Room are closed to the public, with limited exceptions, to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Our Docket Center staff will continue to provide remote customer service via email, phone and webform.
 - We encourage the public to submit comments via <https://www.regulations.gov/> or email, as there may be a delay in processing mail and faxes. Hand deliveries and couriers may be received by scheduled appointment only.
 - For further information on EPA Docket Center services and their current status, please visit us online at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the proposed rule notice from EPA's website at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/aerosol-coatings-national-volatile-organic-compound-emission>.
- Today's action and other background information are also available electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov/>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system.
- For further technical information about the rules in this action, contact, Kaye Whitfield at (919) 541-2509 or whitfield.kaye@epa.gov at the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.