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FACT SHEET

Supplemental Proposal to Rule 23 - Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listings for the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program

Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program

Under section 612 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA reviews substitutes in a comparative risk framework. EPA lists these substitutes as acceptable, acceptable subject to use conditions, acceptable subject to narrowed use limits, or unacceptable (prohibited) for specific uses. Section 612 requires EPA to list as acceptable those substitutes that do not present a significantly greater risk to human health and the environment as compared with other substitutes that are currently or potentially available.

As part of the evaluation of overall risk to human health and the environment, EPA considers many criteria, including the flammability or toxicity of a substitute, worker and consumer exposure, and environmental risks such as ecosystem impacts, local air quality, or impacts on the ozone layer and on the climate system.

Today's Action

Under this proposed rule, three foam blowing agents would be listed as acceptable, with narrowed use limits, in the foam blowing sector from the effective date of a final rule until January 1, 2023. Consistent with CAA section 612 as it has historically been interpreted under the SNAP program, EPA is proposing to issue these listings based on evaluation of the substitutes addressed in this action using the SNAP criteria for review and considering other available and potentially available substitutes.

Proposed Rule

What is proposed in the rule?

- Lists three foam blowing agents as acceptable subject to narrowed use limits from the effective date of a final rule until January 1, 2023

Which industrial sectors are included?

- Foam Blowing

Who would be affected?

- Chemical producers
- Manufacturers of extruded polystyrene: boardstock and billet

When are public comments due?

Must be received no later than 45 days after proposal published in the *Federal Register*

Summary of Proposed Rule

ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES, WITH NARROWED USE LIMITS

End-Use	Substitutes	Decision	Narrowed Use Limits
Foam Blowing			
Extruded Polystyrene (XPS): Boardstock and Billet	Blends of 40 to 52 percent HFC-134a by weight and the remainder HFO-1234ze(E); Blends of 40 to 52 percent HFC-134a with 40 to 60 percent HFO-1234ze(E) and 10 to 20 percent each water and CO ₂ by weight; Blends with maximum of 51 percent HFC-134a, 17 to 41 percent HFC-152a, up to 20 percent CO ₂ and one to 13 percent water	Acceptable, subject to narrowed use limits	Acceptable from 30 days after publication of final rule until January 1, 2023, only for use where reasonable efforts have been made to ascertain that other alternatives are not yet technically feasible for reasons of performance or safety. Users are required to document and retain the results of their technical investigation of alternatives for the purpose of demonstrating compliance. Information shall include descriptions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process or product in which the substitute is needed; • Substitutes examined and rejected; • Reason for rejection of other alternatives, e.g., performance, technical or safety standards; and/or • Anticipated date other substitutes will be available and projected time for switching.