

SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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POLICY AND REGULATION

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Service Line Inventory Guidance

On June 28, 2023, EPA released [Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory: Small Entity Compliance Guide](#) to support water systems, particularly small water systems, in complying with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) initial inventory requirements. EPA's Small Entity Compliance guide helps explain the inventory-related actions small community and non-transient non-community water systems are required to take under the LCRR. For more information and resources on the rule revisions go to [EPA's Ground Water and Drinking Water Program Office webpage](#).

EPA Takes Another Step to Protect the Public from Asbestos Exposure by Finalizing Rule to Require Comprehensive Reporting

On July 6, 2023, EPA announced a final rule to require comprehensive reporting on all six fiber types of asbestos as the agency continues its work to address exposure to this known carcinogen and strengthen the evidence that will be used to further protect people from this dangerous chemical. The rule, issued under section 8(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), requires asbestos manufacturers (including importers) and processors to report certain use and exposure information from the past four years, including information on asbestos-containing products (including as an impurity).

The final reporting rule is one of a series of actions EPA has taken to address the risks that asbestos poses to human health. Last year, EPA [proposed](#) to ban ongoing uses of chrysotile asbestos, the only known form of asbestos currently imported into the United States. Chrysotile asbestos is found in products like asbestos diaphragms, sheet gaskets, brake blocks, aftermarket automotive brakes/linings, other vehicle friction products, and other gaskets also imported into the country. EPA plans to finalize that rule later this year. This final rule is effective August 24, 2023. [Read the rule in the Federal Register.](#)
[Read the press release](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Takes Latest Step in National Phasedown of Climate-Damaging Hydrofluorocarbons

On July 11, 2023, EPA announced the latest action to phase down the use of climate super-pollutant hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), issuing a final rule to implement a 40% reduction below historic levels from 2024 through 2028. The rule aligns with the bipartisan American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act's goals to reduce the production and consumption of these climate-damaging chemicals by 85% by 2036 and help avoid up to 0.5° C of global warming by 2100.

The final rule builds on the success of the 10% phasedown step implemented for 2022 and 2023, by establishing a similar allowance methodology to provide regulatory certainty to industry and stakeholders, ensuring the most efficient implementation under the ongoing phasedown. [Learn more about HFCs.](#) [Read the press release](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Workplace Safety Requirements for Carbon Tetrachloride to Protect Worker Health, Fenceline Communities

On July 17, 2023, EPA announced a proposal that will better protect workers from exposure to carbon tetrachloride (CTC), a chemical known to cause serious health risks such as liver toxicity and cancer. This proposal, if finalized, would protect people from these risks by minimizing exposure to workers and communities, while banning uses that have already ceased. The proposal announced today is the fourth proposed risk management rule under the amended Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), demonstrating significant implementation progress as the agency, under the Biden-Harris Administration, works to ensure these hazardous chemicals, including CTC, are being used safely and all communities are protected. [Read the press release](#)

Proposed Amendments to Air Toxics Standards for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing

EPA proposed amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Integrated Iron and Steel (II&S) Manufacturing Facilities. II&S manufacturing includes the following processes: sinter production, iron production, iron preparation (hot metal desulfurization), and steel production. [Read more on the proposed amendments](#)

EPA Proposes to Streamline Requirements for States and Tribes, Strengthen Co-Regulator Partnerships to Protect Nation's Waters

On July 19, 2023, EPA announced a proposed rule that would streamline and clarify the requirements and steps necessary for states and Tribes to administer programs protecting waterways from discharges of dredged or fill material without a permit. The Clean Water Act envisions collaborative implementation between EPA and state and Tribal co-regulators to protect our nation's waters that support public health, thriving ecosystems, business development, recreation, agriculture, and more. EPA's proposal would address key barriers identified by states and Tribes to administering Clean Water Act section 404 while expanding opportunities for Tribes to meaningfully engage in permitting actions. [Read the press release](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Proposes to Improve Air Pollution

Emissions Data

On July 25, 2023, EPA announced proposed updates to the Agency's Air Emissions Reporting Requirements rule, including proposing to require reporting of hazardous air pollutants, or "air toxics." Air toxics are known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health effects. The proposed updates would ensure that EPA has readily available data to identify places where people are exposed to harmful air pollution and to develop solutions, aligning with the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advancing environmental justice. [Read the press release](#)



KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy Announce Intent to Fund Efforts to Reduce Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Sector

The EPA, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) released a [notice of intent](#) announcing the first in a series of funding opportunities to monitor and reduce methane emissions, one of the biggest drivers of the climate crisis, from the oil and gas sector and for environmental restoration of well sites. Through a newly initiated Interagency Agreement, EPA and DOE will also partner to offer technical assistance to help companies monitor and reduce methane emissions from leaks and daily operations. Through this combination of technical and financial assistance, EPA and DOE will help reduce inefficiencies of U.S. oil and gas operations, create new jobs in energy communities, and realize near-term emission reductions. These funding opportunities are made possible by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. [Read the press release](#)

EPA and HUD Seeking Presenters for Virtual Workshop on Revisiting Definition of Lead-Based Paint

On October 17 and 18, 2023, EPA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD) will hold a virtual public workshop to receive stakeholder input on the detection, measurement and characterization of lead-based paint to support efforts to reduce lead exposure. EPA and HUD will use information received during the workshop to inform their joint effort to revisit the federal definition of lead-based paint and propose and finalize a revised definition, if necessary.

The workshop will cover several topics related to low levels of lead in existing paint, including the potential health effects, the relationship between lead-based paint and dust-lead, possible exposure pathways (e.g., renovation and maintenance, deteriorating paint and direct ingestion), and emerging detection and measurement technologies used to quantify lead in paint. Additionally, EPA and HUD also seek any available new information on lead-based paint characteristics and medical evidence related to low levels of lead in paint to help with EPA and HUD's reevaluation of the definition of lead-based paint. The information shared will increase awareness of exposure pathways that must be considered, inform models that examine the exposure to lead at various concentrations and provide greater context for the impacts a lower definition may have.

[Read the press release](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$135 Million to Reduce Emissions Across America's Industrial Sector

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced \$135 million for 40 projects that will reduce carbon pollution from the industrial sector and move the nation toward a net-zero emissions economy by 2050 by advancing key transformational and innovative technologies. Decarbonizing the U.S. industrial sector is an essential component of President Biden's ambitious clean energy goals and is critical to achieving a clean energy future that benefits all Americans. [Read more on the announcement](#)



ASK SBEAP

Dear SBEAP:

I opened a new small business about three months ago and need help determining whether any state or federal environmental compliance regulations apply to my facility.

Our facility processes generate waste paints, solvents and oils. Are there programs that can help small businesses with environmental compliance questions?

Start-Up Sandra

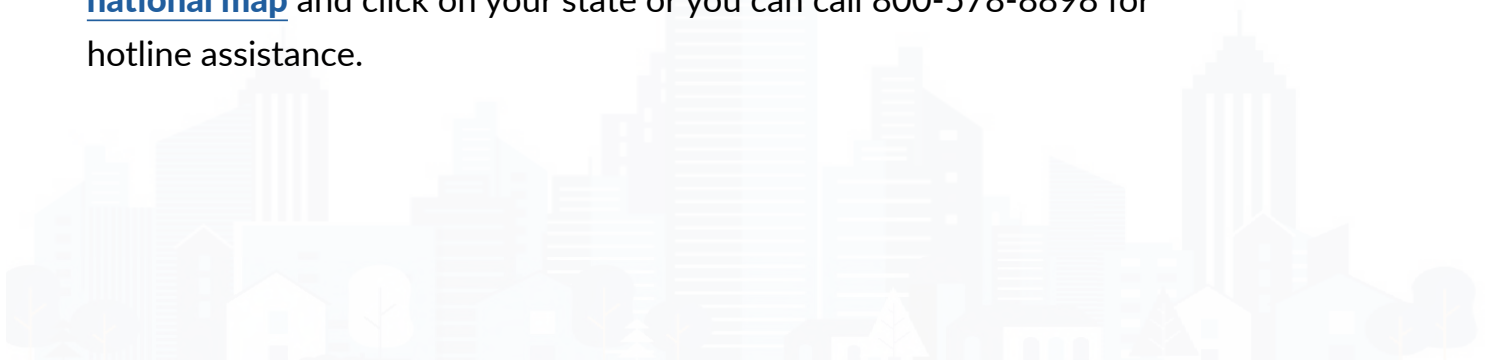
Dear Sandra,

Good news, you have come to the right place to get answers to your questions. It is the business owner's responsibility to determine which environmental regulations apply to their operations. After identifying which regulations the operation is subject to, the owner may need to secure any necessary permits and then meet specific regulatory performance standards.

Operations, like the one described, that spray paints and coatings and use solvents should evaluate their air emissions, hazardous waste generation and the need to notify for stormwater discharges. As a small business, the easiest place to start is by contacting your state Small Business Environmental Assistance Program. These programs are called SBEAP for short, pronounced S-beep, and provide free and confidential environmental compliance assistance. The [map on the National SBEAP website](#) allows you to “click” on the state to find the specific state contact.

Another resource for these regulations and specific industries are the [environmental compliance](#) pages on the [nationalsbeap.org](#) website. These pages provide a basic overview of air quality, hazardous waste and water quality regulations.

So, stop wondering if any regulations apply to your small business and give your state SBEAP a call or send an email. In addition to answering your questions by phone or email, many state SBEAPs also offer on-site, walk-through visits to help them better understand your operations. Again, to contact your state SBEAP, simply go to the [national map](#) and click on your state or you can call 800-578-8898 for hotline assistance.





SPOTLIGHT

EPA Earns 14th Consecutive “A” Grade on Annual Small Business Procurement Scorecard

On July 19, 2023, EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan acknowledged the agency’s “A” grade for its small business contracting goal achievement from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 Small Business Federal Procurement Scorecard](#). This represents the 14th consecutive year that EPA has earned an “A” or “A+” grade on the Scorecard and highlights the collective efforts of EPA’s Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and entire acquisition workforce.

[Read the press release](#)

EPA Administrator Regan and Singapore’s Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu sign Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Environmental Cooperation

On July 20, 2023, EPA and Singapore’s National Environment Agency signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) to enhance bilateral cooperation on environmental management and protection between the two nations. The MOU was signed in Washington, D.C. by EPA Administrator Michael Regan and Singapore’s Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu. [Read the press release](#)



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