

Fact Sheet

Proposed Amendments to Air Toxics Standards for Rubber Tire Manufacturers

ACTION

- On November 10, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Rubber Tire Manufacturing.
- This action proposes maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards for the rubber processing subcategory for total hydrocarbons (THC) as a surrogate for organic hazardous air pollutants (o-HAP) and filterable particulate matter (fPM) as a surrogate for metal HAP. We are also proposing a metal HAP standard as an alternative to the fPM limit.
- The proposed action is estimated to reduce total emissions (THC and fPM) from the rubber tire manufacturing source category by approximately 1,072 tons per year.
- EPA estimates the proposed amendments would have a total cost to industry of approximately \$20.8 million per year.

BACKGROUND

- The Rubber Tire Manufacturing source category consists of facilities that produce rubber tire components, including rubber compounds, sidewalls, tread, tire beads, tire cord, and liners.
- The source category is split into four subcategories: rubber processing, tire production, tire cord production, and puncture sealant application.
- In 2002, EPA finalized the original Rubber Tire Manufacturing NESHAP and established emission limits for three of the subcategories: tire production, tire cord production, and puncture sealant application.
- In 2020, EPA finalized the results of a residual risk and technology review (RTR), which found risk associated with air emissions from rubber tire manufacturing to be acceptable and that the current NESHAP provided an ample margin of safety to protect public health. The 2020 RTR clarified that emissions during startup, shutdown and malfunction are subject to the NESHAP and included provisions regarding electronic reporting.
- In *Louisiana Environmental Action Network v. EPA*, the D.C. Court held that EPA has an obligation to address unregulated emissions from a source category when the agency conducts an 8-year technology review required by the Clean Air Act (CAA).
- In 2022, EPA sent CAA section 114 information requests to all major source rubber tire manufacturing companies within the United States. In response to the information request, EPA received emissions data from the rubber processing subcategory that we did not have in 2002 when the rubber tire manufacturing NESHAP was first promulgated or in 2020 when we conducted the RTR. Today's action is being proposed in light of these new emissions data.

NEW MACT STANDARDS

- The proposed amendments set MACT standards for the rubber processing subcategory for THC (as a surrogate for o-HAP), fPM (as a surrogate for metal HAP), and an alternative for metal HAP pursuant to the CAA.
- Separate MACT standards are proposed based on whether units in the rubber processing subcategory process silica-containing compounds or non-silica-containing compounds.
- The MACT standards for existing sources is calculated based on the average performance of the best-performing units in the rubber processing subcategory, and the MACT standards for new sources are based on the single best-performing source.
- In this action, we are proposing that new sources demonstrate initial compliance 180 days after start-up and existing sources demonstrate initial compliance within 3 years after promulgation of the final rule.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0392, 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-2019-0392.
 - Fax your comments to: (202) 566-9744, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0392.
 - Mail your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0392.
 - Deliver comments in person to: EPA Docket Center, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 3334, Washington, DC.
Note: In-person deliveries (including courier deliveries) are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation. Special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the rule notice from EPA's website at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/rubber-tire-manufacturing-national-emission-standards-hazardous>
- This proposed action and other background information are also available electronically at

<https://www.regulations.gov/>, 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 the EPA Headquarters library, room number 3334 in the 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 proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0392.
- For further technical information about the rule, contact Korbin Smith, EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Sector Policies and Programs Division, at (919) 541-2416 or smith.korbin@epa.gov