

FACT SHEET
Final Amendments to Air Toxics Standards for
Secondary Lead Smelters

ACTION

- On November 9th 2023 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Secondary Lead Smelters (40 CFR part 60, subpart L) and finalized a new NSPS subpart La that applies to affected sources constructed, reconstructed, or modified after the publication date of the final rule in the *Federal Register*.
- Secondary lead smelting facilities recycle lead-bearing scrap material, mainly lead acid batteries, into elemental lead or lead alloys. The process of smelting separates lead from other metals and nonmetallic contaminants. The process occurs in blast, reverberatory, and rotary kiln furnaces.
- There are 11 secondary lead smelters in the U.S. that are subject to the NSPS.
- Following a review of the NSPS, EPA is finalizing:
 - Requirements for initial and periodic performance tests for particulate matter (PM) and opacity.
 - Other requirements include incorporating the monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements, including electronic reporting of performance tests, to be more consistent with the NESHAP for the current NSPS subpart L (which was promulgated in 1974) and a new NSPS subpart La.
 - Updated more stringent PM and opacity emissions limits under the new NSPS subpart La for blast, reverberatory, and pot furnaces that applies to secondary lead smelters constructed, reconstructed, or modified after December 1, 2022.
 - These PM and opacity emissions limits under the new subpart La will apply at all times, including during periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM).

NSPS REVIEW

- Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to determine the best system of emission reduction (BSER) for the source category, and the degree of emission limitation achievable through application of the BSER (taking into account the cost of achieving such reduction and any non-air quality health and environmental impact and energy requirements).
- EPA must then finalize standards of performance for new sources that reflect that level of stringency.
- Section 111 requires EPA to, “at least every eight years review and, if appropriate, revise,” the NSPS. The EPA reviews available data and information to determine if BSER has changed and, if so, propose and finalize revised standards to reflect such changes.

BACKGROUND

- On March 8, 1974, EPA finalized the NSPS for secondary lead smelting, which apply to new or modified facilities (subpart L).
- These standards require all new, modified, and reconstructed facilities that operate secondary lead smelters to control emissions of PM to the level achievable by the best demonstrated system of continuous emission reduction, considering costs, health, and environmental and energy impacts.
- The 1974 NSPS were established based on BSER available at that time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the final rule from EPA's website at the following addresses: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/secondary-lead-smelters-new-source-performance-standards-nsps>.
- Today's action and other background information are also available either electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov/>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system.
 - Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0481.
- For further technical information about the rule, contact Amber Wright, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-4680 or Wright.Amber@epa.gov.