FACT SHEET
Interim Final Rule to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS)
for Steel Plants: Electric Arc Furnaces (EAF) and Argon-Oxygen Decarburization Vessels

ACTION

- On February 5, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an interim final rule to correct inadvertent errors and clarify requirements in the new source performance standards (NSPS) for:
  - Electric Arc Furnaces constructed after October 21, 1974, and on or before August 17, 1983 (subpart AA);
  - Electric Arc Furnaces and Argon-oxygen Decarburization Vessels constructed after August 17, 1983, and on or before May 16, 2022 (subpart AAa); and
  - Electric Arc Furnaces and Argon-Oxygen Decarburization Vessels constructed after May 16, 2022 (subpart AAb).

- The electric arc furnaces (EAF) source category includes any facility that produces steel using an EAF and that may also use argon-oxygen decarburization (AOD) vessels. The source category includes 88 facilities owned by 36 companies that are subject to NSPS subparts AA or AAa. The pollutant addressed by the EAF NSPS is particulate matter (PM), a criteria pollutant.

- This interim final rule corrects inadvertent errors and clarifies requirements in the NSPS subpart AAb and the amendments to NSPS subpart AA and AAa published in the August 25, 2023, final rule. The amendments in this interim final rule:
  - Removes the once-a-week continuous manual shop opacity testing requirements. These provisions were included by error in the final rule and would have had estimated annual compliance testing costs of $6 million for the 88 existing facilities subject to the rule.
  - Corrects procedures for opacity testing of shop emissions under EPA Method 9 to address situations where charging periods at some EAF/AOD facilities may be broken into multiple shorter periods rather than one continuous charging period, and where plumes from charging are delayed.
  - Corrects a typographic error (in § 60.272b(a)(3)) so that the first mention of charging is changed to "tapping" thereby making subpart AAb requirements consistent with those in NSPS subparts AA and AAa.

BACKGROUND

- This interim final action corrects errors in subparts AA, AAa and AAb made in the August 25, 2023, final rule.

- Pursuant to the Clean Air Act, EPA completed a review of the existing NSPS for the EAF source category to determine the best system of emission reduction (BSER) for the NSPS 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). This review resulted in promulgation of a new NSPS for electric arc furnaces (EAF)/AOD facilities (subpart AAb) and amendments to subparts AA and AAa, which were finalized in a previous final rule (88 FR 58442).

COMMENTS

- Comments on this interim final action must be received within 30 days of publication.

- This interim final rule is effective on the date of publication in the Federal Register, without further notification. However, if EPA receives any significant adverse comments within 30 days of publication related to the specific provisions that are amended in this interim rule, EPA will address these comments in another final rule.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the interim final rule notice from EPA's website at the following address: https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/electric-arc-furnaces-eafs-and-argon-oxygen-decarburization-vessels.

- Today's action and other background information also are available 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-2002-0049.