

FACT SHEET

Final Amendments to Aerosol Coatings National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards

ACTION

- On January 6, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the National Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings, which is a national reactivity-based regulation for aerosol spray paints.
- These amendments will improve consistency and uniformity between national and state aerosol coatings regulations and enhance compliance/recordkeeping and reporting. This action finalizes:
 - Amendments to the standards by updating coating category reactivity limits, reactivity factors, and definitions requested by commenters.
 - Revisions to the default reactivity factor and the threshold for volatile organic compounds covered by the rule.
 - Updates to reporting and compliance requirements by requiring regulated entities to submit electronic copies of required notifications and reports, requiring updated testing methods, and adding a compliance date of six months after publication of this final rule in the *Federal Register*.
- Today's action responds to petitions from the American Coatings Association (ACA) requesting that EPA update the VOC standards for aerosol coatings to better align with regulations set forth by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).
- There is no increase in burden associated with this final action. There are initial year costs associated with the labor needed to comply with the new electronic reporting requirements. However, the Agency anticipates that electronic reporting will reduce the overall burden as regulated entities become more familiar with the process.
- EPA does not anticipate adverse environmental, energy, or economic impacts from compliance with this final rule. This action is expected to improve on the original aerosol coatings rule by promoting consistency and uniformity between state and federal regulations.

BACKGROUND

- Section 183(e) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires control of VOC emissions from certain categories of consumer and commercial products (including aerosol coatings) to help minimize VOC emissions that contribute to ozone formation.
- The National VOC Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings establish nationwide standards based on the varying reactivity rates of VOCs. This approach encourages the use of less reactive VOC ingredients and, thereby, results in a greater reduction in ozone

formation (as compared to reductions achieved using a traditional mass-based approach where all VOC ingredients in a product are treated equally).

- When VOCs are released into the atmosphere, they undergo a reaction that creates ozone. Different VOCs have different levels of reactivity, meaning they do not react to form ozone at the same speed or do not form ozone to the same extent.
- The Aerosol Coatings source category is comprised of approximately 46 regulated sources and includes aerosol coatings manufacturers, processors, wholesale distributors, or importers of aerosol coating products for sale or distribution in interstate commerce in the United States.
- Two companies account for about 70 percent of the U.S. market, and the remaining sources are a mixed group of smaller aerosol marketing companies and larger coating suppliers.
- EPA last revised the rule on March 9, 2012, to add three compounds and their associated reactivity factors to the rule's table of reactivity factors based on petitions received from a regulated entity.
- In 2017 and 2020, the American Coatings Association (ACA) petitioned EPA and requested updates to the national aerosol coatings rule that lend clarity and uniformity with California's aerosol coatings regulation, thereby reducing burdens and costs to the industry.
- On September 17, 2021, EPA proposed amendments to the aerosol coatings rule, received comments on the proposed amendments by November 16, 2021, and prepared a response to comments document, which is available electronically on <https://www.regulations.gov/>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download a copy of the final rule notice from EPA's website at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/aerosol-coatings-national-volatile-organic-compound-emission>.
- Today's action and other background information are also available electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0971>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system.