

SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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POLICY AND REGULATION

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule for Carbon Tetrachloride to Protect Workers

On December 11, 2024, EPA finalized a rule to protect workers from exposure to [carbon tetrachloride \(CTC\)](#), a chemical known to be toxic to the liver and cause liver cancer, brain tumors and adrenal gland tumors. This final rule will protect people from these risks through the requirement of robust worker safety programs and banning some uses. This risk management rule aligns with [President Biden's Cancer Moonshot](#), a whole-of-government approach to end cancer as we know it. This is the fifth risk management rule to be finalized using the process created by the bipartisan [2016 Toxic Substances Control Act \(TSCA\) amendments](#), marking another major milestone for chemical safety since President Biden took office after decades of inadequate

protections and serious delays. [Read more on carbon tetrachloride and this final rule in the press release.](#)

Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Restrictions on the Use of HFCs Under the AIM Act in Variable Refrigerant Flow Air Conditioning Subsector

On December 12, 2024, EPA amended a provision of the 2023 Technology Transitions regulations promulgated under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020. This action provides until January 1, 2027, for the installation of certain new variable refrigerant flow air conditioning and heat pump systems which use components manufactured in the United States or imported into the United States prior to January 1, 2026. This action also provides until January 1, 2028, for the installation of certain new variable refrigerant flow air conditioning and heat pump systems if a building permit that approves the use of a hydrofluorocarbon or blend containing a hydrofluorocarbon in such a system was issued prior to October 5, 2023, provided that the system uses components manufactured in the United States or imported into the United States prior to January 1, 2026. This action will mitigate the potential for stranded inventory of variable refrigerant flow systems. This final rule is effective on January 13, 2025. [Read more on these HFCs restrictions in the Federal Register.](#)

Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances

On December 12, 2024, EPA issued significant new use rules (SNURs) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for certain chemical substances that were the subject of premanufacture notices (PMNs) and are also subject to an Order issued by EPA pursuant to TSCA. The SNURs require persons to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing the manufacture (defined by statute to include import) or processing of any of these chemical substances for an activity that is designated as a significant new use in the SNUR. The required notification initiates EPA's evaluation of the conditions of that use for that chemical substance. This rule is effective February 10, 2025. [Read more on the new SNURs Certain Chemical Substances rule in the Federal Register.](#)

Trichloroethylene (TCE); Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

On December 17, 2024, EPA finalized a rule that addressed the unreasonable risk of injury to health presented by trichloroethylene (TCE) under its conditions of use. TSCA requires that EPA address by rule any unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment identified in a TSCA risk evaluation and apply requirements to the extent necessary so that the chemical no longer presents unreasonable risk. This final rule is effective on January 16, 2025. [Read more on this TCE rule in the Federal Register.](#)

Dry Cleaning Facilities: National Perchloroethylene Air Emission Standards

On December 20, 2024, EPA published the final rule for National Perchloroethylene Air Emission Standards for Dry Cleaning Facilities Technology Review. These maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards will reduce emissions of Perchloroethylene (PCE) from new and existing dry cleaning facilities in the industrial and commercial sectors of the dry cleaning industry. Coin operated dry cleaning machines are exempt from the standards. The final rule will reduce PCE emissions by an estimated 5,700 tons per year and will result in a net cost savings. [Read more on the PCE rule and initiative to reduce emissions from the dry cleaning industry.](#)

Fall 2024 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions

Released by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Unified Agenda provides important public notice and transparency about proposed regulatory and deregulatory actions within the Executive Branch. [View EPA's Fall 2024 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions and Priorities.](#)



KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

EPA Announces \$2.5 Million to Fund Climate and Environmental Community Action Grant as Part of Investing in America Agenda

On December 17, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced approximately \$2.5 million in funding available to support communities and their partners in higher education work together to advance community-driven projects, strengthen climate resilience and build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate challenges. EPA's UPLIFT Climate and Environmental Community Action Grant will advance collaborative efforts to achieve a healthier, safer, and more prosperous future for all. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will close on February 25, 2025. EPA encourages applicants to apply as early as possible. [Read more on EPA's UPLIFT Climate and Environmental Community Action Grant initiative in the press release.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$1.6 Billion in Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants

On December 12, 2024, EPA announced it selected 105 applications for the Community Change Grants Program, totaling nearly \$1.6 billion in awards to advance local, on-the-ground projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity. Made possible by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, the Community Change Grants Program is the single largest investment in environmental and climate justice in history. [Read the press release for more information on the award recipients and the Community Change Grants Program.](#)

Release of Volumes 1 and 2 of the Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants

On December 20, 2024, EPA made available to the public Volumes 1 and 2 of the *Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants* (IRP). The national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) from photochemical oxidants are set to protect public health and public welfare from these pollutants in ambient air. Comments must be received on or before January 21, 2025. [Read more on the NAAQS IRP in the Federal Register and to provide comment.](#)

Proposed 2026 Multi-Sector General Permit for Public Comment

EPA is seeking public comment on a proposed 2026 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for stormwater discharges from industrial activity. This proposed permit would replace the 2021 MSGP upon finalization. This proposed permit would cover stormwater discharges from industrial facilities in areas where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. EPA will take comments on the proposal during a 60-day comment period, which ends February 11, 2025. [Comments must be submitted on www.regulations.gov for docket ID EPA-HQ-OW-2024-0481.](#) The fact sheet, permit, and other associated documents can be found in the *Federal Register* notice and are available in the docket (docket ID EPA-HQ-OW-2024-0481). [For more information view the NPDES MSGP notice in the Federal Register.](#)



Dear Ask SBEAP:

As a small metal fabricating business, our facility is subject to a national emissions standard for hazardous air pollutants, or NESHAP, informally known as the “6X rule.” We filed our initial notification and notification of compliance, but do we also need to file an “annual certification and compliance report”?

Sincerely, Annual Reporting Adeline

Dear Adeline:

As we begin 2025, industries subject to air-quality rules and regulations, such as NESHAPs, need to review and possibly report on their compliance status. The end of the year or beginning of a new year is a good time to go over your facility’s requirements and plan for the new year of recordkeeping and reporting.

Your first step should be to review your permits and note the specific recordkeeping and reporting requirements, as well as dates any reports are due. If you do not have a copy of the air permits for your facility, you should contact the permitting agency in your state for a copy.

The 6X rule does require annual compliance reports, which are due by Jan. 31 each year. Also, there are different forms depending on your requirement for visual emissions reporting. The purpose of these forms is to certify your compliance and allow you to report any deviations and associated corrections. Your regulatory agency understands deviations sometimes occur. The important thing is that you identify and correct them.

Please note, not all NESHAPs require annual compliance reporting, and many do have a different January reporting due date. Below are a few NESHAPs that require annual compliance certification reports of one kind or another, due in January each year:

- [Stationary Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines RICE MACT ZZZZ \(MACT 4Z rule\)](#)
- [Major source boiler MACT DDDDD \(Boiler MACT 5D rule\)](#)
- [Plating and polishing NESHAP WWWWWW \(6W rule\)](#)
- [Prepared feeds manufacturing NESHAP DDDDDDD \(7D rule\)](#)

Because environmental regulations can vary from state to state, Ask SBEAP recommends you contact your state SBEAP, which is there to provide environmental compliance technical assistance personalized to your small business. You can find the [contact information for your state SBEAP on this map](#). As always, if you need additional assistance, you can [email info@nationalsbeap.org](mailto:info@nationalsbeap.org) or call us at 800-578-8898.



SPOTLIGHT

EPA Announces \$2.4 million in Funding to 24 Small Businesses for the Development of Environmental Technologies

On January 13, 2025, EPA announced \$2,400,000 for 24 small businesses to develop technologies to address public health and environmental challenges. These companies are using innovative approaches that include treating per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in biosolids, reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from building materials, and developing chemical alternatives that are safer for our environment.

These funding awards are part of EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, an annual, two-phase competition for small businesses to develop and commercialize environmental technologies that help address the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment. Twenty-four small businesses are receiving \$100,000 of Phase I funding for six months for "proof of concept" of their proposed technology. Companies that complete Phase I can then apply to receive Phase II funding of up to \$400,000 to further develop and commercialize their technology. [Read the press release to learn more about the winning small businesses and the SBIR program.](#)

Asbestos Part 2 Supplemental Evaluation Including Legacy Uses and Associated Disposals; Risk Evaluation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Notice of Availability

EPA is announcing the availability of the final supplemental risk evaluation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for asbestos Part 2: addressing legacy uses and associated disposal. The purpose of risk evaluations under TSCA is to determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, without consideration of costs or non-risk factors, including unreasonable risk to potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations identified as relevant to the risk evaluation by EPA, under the conditions of use. For the part 2 supplemental risk evaluation, the agency evaluated legacy uses and associated disposals of asbestos including chrysotile asbestos, five additional fiber types, conditions of use for asbestos-containing talc that are subject to TSCA, and Libby asbestos. EPA used the best available science to prepare this final supplemental risk evaluation and determined, based on the weight of scientific evidence, that asbestos poses unreasonable risk to human health. Under TSCA, EPA must initiate risk management

actions to address the unreasonable risk. [For more information read the notice in the Federal Register on the Asbestos Part 2 Supplemental Evaluation.](#)

EPA's Annual Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Results Include Strongest Outcomes Since 2017

On December 5, 2024, EPA announced its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Annual Results, highlighting the agency's enhanced efforts to hold polluters accountable and protect communities from harm. The agency's enforcement efforts resulted in over 1,800 concluded civil cases, over 120 criminal defendants charged, and more than 225 million pounds of pollution reductions in overburdened communities, providing substantial environmental and public health benefits for the nation. [Read more on the Compliance Assurance Annual Results in the press release.](#)

Guide to Using TRI Data to Reduce Pollution in Your Community

On December 20, 2024, EPA announced a new web-based resource for individuals and organizations working to reduce local industrial pollution. The "Guide to Using Toxics Release Inventory Data to Reduce Pollution in Your Community" helps users identify local sources of chemical emissions, understand which ones may be of greatest concern, and advance solutions to reduce chemical releases from these sources. The new guide is part of EPA's ongoing efforts to help people access the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) information most relevant to them and understand what actions they can take based on the information. [You can access the TRI Guide here.](#)



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