

Fact Sheet

Proposed Rule: Proposal to De-list Hazardous Air Pollutant: 2-Butoxyethyl Benzoate (2-BEB)

Summary of Action

- On December 17, 2025, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to amend the list of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) contained in section 112(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) by proposing to remove the chemical 2-Butoxyethyl Benzoate (also known as “2-BEB”) from the glycol ethers category in the HAP list.
- This proposal is in response to a petition requesting that the EPA remove 2-BEB from the glycol ether category of the HAP list.
- This determination, if finalized, would allow industry to use 2-BEB in their formulations in place of other similar chemicals without the risk of increasing HAP emissions.

Background

- Congress created a list of hazardous air pollutants under section 112 of the CAA. EPA is required to evaluate and control emissions of HAP.
- Under CAA Section 112(b)(3), any person may petition EPA to delete a substance from the HAP list. A petitioner seeking to delete a substance must demonstrate that there are adequate data on the health and environmental effects of the substance to determine that the emissions, concentration, bioaccumulation, and deposition of the substance may not reasonably be anticipated to cause any adverse effects to human health or the environment.
- In August 2021, a complete petition was submitted to EPA to request the deletion of 2-BEB from the HAP list.

Proposed Revisions

- Following receipt of the complete petition, EPA conducted a preliminary review of the information provided in the petition.
 - Based on the preliminary assessment, EPA found that the models and methods used by the petitioner to estimate 2-BEB air emissions were appropriate and provided reasonably conservative screening-level estimates of 2-BEB emissions.
 - To verify the petitioner’s results, EPA conducted its own screening assessment using the petitioner’s 2-BEB emissions estimates.
 - EPA’s evaluation concurs with the petitioner’s conclusion that atmospheric transformation of 2-BEB emissions may not reasonably be anticipated to cause adverse effects to human health.

How to Comment

- EPA will accept comments for 60 days after the proposal is published in the *Federal Register*.
- Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0392, may be submitted via one of the following methods:
- Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting a comment (our preferred method).
- Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0392 Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Hand/Courier Delivery: EPA Docket Center, WJC West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004. The Docket Center's hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (except federal holidays).

More Information

- For more information on this action, please visit EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/deletion-2-butoxyethyl-benzoate-2-beb-glycol-ethers-category-clean-air-act-list-hazardous-air>.
- This action and other background information are also available online at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0392.