United States Environmental Protection Agency

Fact Sheet

Final Rule: Air Toxics Standards for Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources

Summary of Action

- On March 28, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources (CMAS).
- The final rule sets new leak detection and repair requirements, establishes first-time process group standards, and modifies performance testing requirements and reporting.
- These revisions will achieve meaningful emission reductions across nine source categories, which EPA estimates to collectively cover approximately 251 facilities.
- EPA does not expect this final rule to substantially affect market prices or the supply of the products manufactured by affected CMAS facilities, such as plastics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and rubber.
- This final action fulfills EPA's technology review requirements under Clean Air Act (CAA) section 112(d)(6).
- EPA estimates that the final rule will reduce hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions from CMAS by approximately 160 tons per year (tpy) and volatile organic compound emissions by 1,582 tpy.
- EPA is not taking final action to establish the proposed area source category Chemical Manufacturing with Ethylene Oxide or related standards at this time.

Revisions to Standards, Testing, and Reporting

- The final rule establishes an annual monitoring program for equipment leaks from certain pumps, valves, connectors, and other process equipment.
- The final rule requires sources to monitor leaks from large heat exchange systems (*i.e.*, with flow rates of 8,000 gallons per minute or more) with a more sensitive method (*i.e.*, the Modified El Paso Method).
- The final rule requires sources to route emissions from pressure vessels to an air pollution control device (APCD) to ensure there are no detectable emissions, verified by annual monitoring.
- Overall, any bypass of an APCD from a chemical manufacturing process unit (CMPU) is a deviation.
- The final rule requires sources to address fugitive emissions from pressure relief devices through preventative measures (*i.e.*, root cause analysis and corrective action).
- The final rule removes several provisions and requirements from the CMAS NESHAP, such as: affirmative defense provisions, consistent with judicial precedent; an exemption from process vent standards for gas streams that exit analyzers; design evaluations for process vents in organic HAP service; the concentration threshold from the "metal HAP process vent" definition; and the engineering assessment compliance option for process vents in metal HAP service.
- The final rule requires sources to complete consistent performance testing for certain process vents and storage tanks.
    - Sources must submit electronic copies of certain required performance test reports and periodic reports using EPA's Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface.

Economic Analysis

- EPA's economic analysis for the final rule estimates overall costs to industry for the time period 2027-2041 to be approximately $72 million when discounted at a three percent discount rate or $56 million at a seven percent discount rate. The annual costs are $6.1 million at a three percent discount rate or $6.2 million at a seven percent discount rate. These costs include savings from recovered product. All costs are in 2024 dollars, discounted to 2025.

Background

- An area source is a stationary source that has the potential to emit fewer than 25 tpy of HAP and fewer than 10 tpy of any single HAP.
- For area sources, CAA section 112(d)(5) allows EPA to set generally available control technology standards, which typically consider factors like cost, in lieu of maximum achievable control technology standards.
- CAA section 112(d)(6) requires EPA to review and revise air toxics standards as necessary every eight years, considering developments in practices, processes, and control technologies.
- On October 19, 2009, EPA issued the original CMAS NESHAP that affected area sources emitting at least one of 15 chemical compounds in nine different area source categories.
- The CMAS NESHAP regulates HAP emissions from CMPUs that use or produce, either as a product or byproduct, at least one of the 15 regulated urban HAP.
- In January 2025, EPA proposed revisions to the CMAS NESHAP and provided an 81-day public comment period.

More Information

- For more information on this action, please visit our website: https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/chemical-manufacturing-area-sources-national-emission-standards.
- This action and other background information are also available online at https://www.regulations.gov/. Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0303.