

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR AREA SOURCES IN SEVEN INDUSTRY SECTORS

ACTION

- On June 15, 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final air toxics standards for area sources in seven industrial source categories.
- The final standards apply to area sources in the following industries: acrylic and modacrylic fibers production, carbon black production, chromium compounds manufacturing, flexible polyurethane foam production, flexible polyurethane foam fabrication, lead acid battery manufacturing, and wood preserving.
- Area sources are those that have the potential to emit less than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or less than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants. If sources emit more than these amounts, they are called ‘major’ sources.
- Existing area sources that will be affected by the rules are well controlled as a result of State or Federal regulations. The final rules will not change the level of emissions control provided by the current standards.
- The final rules require existing area sources to comply with the same requirements as those in their State or Federal operating permit or to comply with other Federal air toxics standards. These emissions limits and work practices provide effective control of air toxics emissions. Monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements for existing sources are also the same as those that already apply. Startup, shutdown, and malfunction requirements in the General Provisions will also apply to some of the source categories. Standards are also established for new sources.
- The air toxics emitted from area sources in these industrial source categories include acrylonitrile, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, dioxin, lead, methylene chloride, and polycyclic organic matter. Exposure to these compounds may cause cancer, central nervous system, respiratory system, and reproductive effects; kidney damage; and acute health disorders such as respiratory and skin irritation.
- The final rules will have little cost impact on existing area sources. EPA estimates that compliance cost (primarily for one-time notifications) averages about \$700 per facility.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 187 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- Each of the source categories included in today’s final rules are included on the area source category list.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology required for major sources.
- The final air toxics rules have been developed in response to the requirements in section 112(k) of the Clean Air Act and are being issued at this time in response to a court order that directs EPA to issue final rules for area sources every 6 months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the final rules, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- For further information about the final rules, contact Ms. Sharon Nizich of EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2825 or nizich.sharon@epa.gov.