

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO NESHAP FOR AREA SOURCES FOR SEVEN INDUSTRY SECTORS

ACTION

- On March 20, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued direct final rules clarifying amendments to its July 16, 2007 standards for smaller emitting sources, called area sources, in seven industries.
- Area sources are commercial and industrial operations that release lesser quantities of toxic pollutants into the air. Area sources emit less than 10 tons per year of a single air toxic, or less than 25 tons per year of a combination of air toxics. Sources that emit more than these amounts are characterized as "major" sources.
- The direct final rules cover the following industry sectors: acrylic and modacrylic fibers production, carbon black production, chemical manufacturing: chromium compounds, flexible polyurethane foam production, flexible polyurethane foam fabrication, lead acid battery manufacturing, and wood preserving.
- The direct final amendments clarify certain provisions in two of the area source rules and correct minor technical, editorial, and publication errors in all of the final rules.
- The amendments to the area source rule for flexible polyurethane foam production and fabrication clarify that the general provisions do not apply to slabstock foam production facilities which comply with the prohibition on the use of methylene chloride.
- The amendments to the area source rule for lead acid battery manufacturing correct an error in the deadline for submission of the notification of compliance status report.. The corrected date is March 13, 2009.
- The direct final amendments do not change the level of emissions control provided by the current standards.
- The direct final amendments will have no cost impacts on plants covered by these rules.
- EPA is publishing direct final rules. The Agency views the action as noncontroversial and does not anticipate adverse comments. However, if EPA receives significant adverse comments on these amendments, we will withdraw the section(s) of the direct final rule (s) which were adversely commented on and carefully evaluate the comments before taking any final action.

BACKGROUND

- On July 16, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final air toxics standards for area sources in seven industrial source categories. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- 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.
- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- 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 the 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 were developed in response to the requirements in section 112(k) of the Clean Air Act and were issued 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 notice, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- Today's direct final rule amendments and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, [EPA's electronic public docket and comment system](#), or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.

- The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for this action can be accessed using Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0897.
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- For further information about the direct final rule amendments, contact Ms. Sharon Nizich of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2825 or nizich.sharon@epa.gov.