

**REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS OF EPA'S
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY
STANDARDS FOR LEAD**

FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

- On June 27, 2008 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed its Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) of the proposed revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for lead (NAAQS).
- The RIA is intended to inform the public about the benefits and costs of meeting a range of options for a revised lead standard.
- EPA did not use this analysis in developing the proposed lead standards. As interpreted by the Agency and the courts, the Clean Air Act prohibits EPA from considering costs in setting or revising any NAAQS.
- To inform the public, the Agency analyzed the benefits and costs of meeting a range of alternative standards as required by Executive Order 12866 and guidance from the White House Office of Management and Budget.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

- To estimate the costs of meeting the proposed standards, EPA analyzed the cost of using both existing controls and controls that may be developed in the future for reducing lead from industrial sources.
- EPA estimates that at full implementation of the proposed lead standards in 2020, the costs in that year would be approximately:
 - \$ 12 million to meet a standard of 0.50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 - \$450 million to meet a standard of 0.30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 - \$840 million to meet a standard of 0.20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 - \$1.6 billion to meet a standard of 0.10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 - \$ 2.1 billion to meet a standard of 0.05 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- To estimate the benefits of meeting a range of standards, EPA used peer-reviewed studies of air quality and health and welfare effects, and peer-reviewed studies of the dollar values of public health improvements.
- EPA calculated the benefits of avoiding IQ loss for children under age 7 that would result from a strengthened lead NAAQS. Because expected lifetime earnings are related to IQ, we describe benefits as an expected increase in lifetime earnings at full implementation

of the NAAQS in 2020. These estimates also include co-benefits associated with other health improvements expected to occur as a result of fine particulate matter reductions resulting from controls applied to reduce lead levels. EPA estimated benefits would be:

- Between \$1.1 billion and \$2.7 billion for a standard set at 0.50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Between \$2.2 billion and \$6.0 billion for a standard set at 0.30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Between \$3.0 billion and \$8.2 billion for a standard set at 0.20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Between \$4.6 billion and \$11 billion for a standard set at 0.10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Between \$7.1 billion and \$18 billion for a standard set at 0.05 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final rules, go to EPA's Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/air/lead>.
- The proposed revisions to the Lead NAAQS 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 Avenue, 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 the lead proposal can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0735.