

3-10-99

FACT SHEET

REVISION OF SCHEDULE FOR REGULATION OF VOC EMISSIONS FROM CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT (SECTION 183(e))

TODAY'S ACTION

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today revising the schedule for regulation under the Clean Air Act of:
 - aerosol spray paints
 - lithographic printing materials
 - industrial cleaning solvents
 - flat wood paneling coatings
 - miscellaneous metal products coatings
 - large appliance coatings
 - fiberglass boat manufacturing materials
 - miscellaneous industrial adhesives.
- ◆ EPA is required to publish either a national rule or a control techniques guideline (CTG) for these product categories under section 183(e) of the Clean Air Act because they emit volatile organic compounds (VOC). VOCs can combine with nitrogen oxides to form ground-level ozone, which can cause a variety of health and ecological problems.
- ◆ The revised schedule requires EPA to publish a rule or a CTG by 2001 for aerosol spray paints, lithographic printing materials, industrial cleaning solvents, and flat wood paneling coatings. The revised schedule requires EPA to publish a rule or CTG by 2003 for miscellaneous metal products coatings, large appliance coatings, fiberglass boat manufacturing materials, and miscellaneous industrial adhesives.
- ◆ These changes to the schedule for regulation of consumer and commercial products are necessary to improve workload management and to allow coordination with regulatory actions under section 112 (d) of the Act, which requires EPA to establish standards for emissions of hazardous air pollutants.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act, EPA was required to (1) study emissions of VOC from consumer and commercial products; (2) list those categories of products that account for at least 80 percent of the total VOC emissions on a reactivity-adjusted basis in areas of the country that fail to meet the national air quality standards set for ground-level ozone; and (3) divide the list into four groups, and regulate one group every two years using best available controls, as defined by the Clean Air

Act.

- ◆ The EPA issued a study and Report to Congress in March of 1995, Study of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Consumer and Commercial Products, which evaluated the contribution of VOC emissions from consumer and commercial products on ground-level ozone levels, and established criteria for prioritizing and a schedule for regulating these products under the Clean Air Act.
- ◆ In March 1995, EPA published in the Federal Register the initial list of product categories for regulation and published the schedule for regulation of these categories. In this initial listing notice, EPA stated that any changes to the schedule or the product categories would be published in the Federal Register.
- ◆ EPA's March 1995 schedule called for the regulation of:
 - aerosol spray paints by 1997;
 - lithographic printing materials, industrial cleaning solvents, flat wood paneling coatings by 1999;
 - miscellaneous metal products coatings, large appliance coatings, fiberglass boat manufacturing materials, and miscellaneous industrial adhesives by 2001
- ◆ EPA does not anticipate that any States are relying on control of these product categories for their demonstration of attainment of the ozone NAAQS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ◆ Interested parties can download the Federal Register notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address:
http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg. For questions about this action, contact Jan Meyer at (919) 541-5254.
- ◆ The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: *http://www.epa.gov/oar/*.