

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR AREA SOURCES IN SEVEN INDUSTRY SECTORS

ACTION

- On March 22, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued proposed air toxics standards for smaller emitting sources, called area sources, in seven industry sectors.
- 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
- The proposed 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
- Existing area sources that would be affected by the rules are well controlled as a result of State or Federal regulations. The proposed rules would essentially codify existing requirements and would not change the level of emissions control provided by the current standards.
- The proposed 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 would also be the same as those that already apply. Startup, shutdown, and malfunction requirements in the General Provisions would also apply to some of the source categories. Standards are also proposed for new sources.
- The proposed 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.
- EPA will accept public comments for 30 days following publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register. The Agency will hold a public hearing if requested to do so.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one

or more listed 188 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area 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 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 proposed 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 (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- The proposed air toxics rules are being 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 notice, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- Today’s proposed rule 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 Library, 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 proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0897.

- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0897 and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - o Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>),
 - o e-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov),
 - o Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
 - o Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).

- For further information about the proposed rules, contact Ms. Sharon Nizich of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2825 or nizich.sharon@epa.gov.