

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR AREA SOURCES IN THE CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

ACTION

- On September 19, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed national air toxics standards for smaller-emitting sources, known as area sources, in the chemical manufacturing industry. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.

- EPA proposed national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants for nine area source categories in the chemical manufacturing sector:
 - Agricultural Chemicals and Pesticides Manufacturing,
 - Cyclic Crude and Intermediate Production,
 - Industrial Inorganic Chemical Manufacturing,
 - Industrial Organic Chemical Manufacturing,
 - Inorganic Pigments Manufacturing,
 - Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing,
 - Plastic Materials and Resins Manufacturing,
 - Pharmaceutical Production, and Synthetic Rubber Manufacturing.The proposed standards and associated requirements for the nine area source categories are combined in one subpart.

- To be subject to the proposed standards, the chemical manufacturing operations must process, use, or produce any of the following 15 air toxics:

acetaldehyde	hexachlorobenzene
arsenic compounds	hydrazine
butadiene	lead compounds
cadmium compounds	manganese compounds
chloroform	methylene chloride
chromium compounds	nickel compounds
dichloropropene	quinoline
ethylene dichloride	

- The proposal would affect an estimated 450 existing chemical manufacturing area sources. 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.

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- The proposed emissions standards are identical for new and existing sources and are based on our determination regarding the generally available control technology (GACT) for each area source category.
- The proposed rule would reduce air toxics by 270 tons per year and fine particulate matter by 360 tons per year at an annual cost (including the annualized capital cost) of \$5.5 million. The total capital cost of the proposed rule is estimated at \$3.7 million.
- The EPA will accept public comment for 30 days after the proposal is published in the Federal Register. EPA will hold a public hearing, if requested.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

- The proposed rule includes management practices for all process vents, equipment leaks, storage tanks, transfer operations, and small cooling tower systems. The management practices require quarterly inspections for leaks. The management practices also require that equipment openings be in closed position during operation, control liquid spills during transfer operations, and devise an inspection plan for detection of and response to leaks in the cooling water system.
- The proposed rule requires treatment of all wastewater.
- The proposed rule includes more stringent requirements for subcategories of process vents, storage tanks, cooling towers, and wastewater systems. Approximately six facilities have processes with vent streams requiring an emission reduction of 95 percent for continuous process vents or 90 percent for batch process vent. For 86 facilities we determined GACT for metal processes to be 95% control of vents emitting metal air toxics. Floating roof controls will be required for an estimated 5 storage tanks and quarterly monitoring will be required for cooling tower systems at 54 facilities. Also, owners and operators at 20 facilities will be required to remove organic air toxics from wastewater streams before discarding stream to wastewater system.
- Facilities in this industry would also be required to submit one-time notifications of applicability and compliance status, submit annual deviation reports, and keep records to demonstrate compliance with the proposed rule
- EPA is proposing to exempt area sources in the chemical manufacturing industry from Title V permitting requirements, except where an affected facility is required to obtain a Title V permit for reasons other than being subject to the proposed rule.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more of 187 listed toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of GACT or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- Further, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to (1) identify the toxic air pollutants that pose the greatest threat to public health in urban areas and (2) identify and list the area source categories that represent 90 percent of the emissions of the urban air toxics associated with area sources and regulate them to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- EPA published the Strategy on July 19, 1999, in the *Federal Register* that included:
 - A list of the 33 air toxics that present the greatest threat to public health in the largest number of urban areas. Of these 33 urban air toxics, EPA has identified the 30 with the greatest contribution from smaller commercial and industrial operations or "area" sources, as defined in the Clean Air Act. (See <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/list33.html> for the full list.)
 - A list of 29 area source categories that contribute to the emissions of these 30 listed air toxics. Subsequent notices published on June 26 and November 22, 2002, added 41 source categories to this list of area sources and fulfilled the Clean Air Act requirement to identify and list area source categories for at least 90 percent of the emissions of the 30 “listed” (or area source) air toxics. The Ferroalloys source category included in today’s proposed rule is included in this list of area sources. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the notice go to EPA’s Worldwide Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>

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- 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 EPA's Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA West Building, 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 this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0334.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0334 and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
 - E-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov)
 - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
 - Hand delivery (Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
 - For further information about the proposed rule, contact Randy McDonald of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) at (919) 541-5402 or mcdonald.randy@epa.gov