

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
40 CFR Part 63

METHODS FOR THE POLYMERS AND RESINS I RULE
Appendix A, Test Methods 310, 312, 313

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed Rule.

SUMMARY: Methods 310, 312, and 313 are being proposed in conjunction with the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for the Manufacture of Major Elastomers, commonly referred to as the Polymers and Resins I Rule. The proposed methods were adapted from industrial methods submitted by the facilities in the polymers and resins industry and reviewed by the EPA. After consideration of public comments, the methods will be promulgated, in conjunction with the Polymers and Resins I rule, as EPA methods 310, 312, and 313, 40 CFR Part 63, Appendix A.

Method 310 is applicable for determining the residual amount of solvent (hexane being the most commonly used solvent) and diene monomer in ethylene-propylene terpolymer (EPDM) as produced in the solution polymerization process. Method 312 is applicable for determining the residual amount of styrene in styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR) as produced in the emulsion polymerization process. Method 313 is applicable for determining the residual amount of toluene, dimer, and styrene in polybutadiene rubber (PBR) and SBR crumb as produced in the solution polymerization process. All three method analysis is through the use of gas chromatography.

DATES: Comments. Comments must be received on or before [insert

date 60 days after publication in the Federal Register].

Public Hearing. If anyone contacts the EPA requesting to speak at a public hearing by [insert date 3 weeks after publication in the Federal Register], a public hearing will be held on [insert date 30 days from date of publication] beginning at 10 a.m. Persons interested in attending the hearing should call Ms. Marguerite Thweatt at (919) 541-5607 to verify that a hearing will be held.

Request to Speak at Hearing. Persons wishing to present oral testimony must contact the EPA by [insert date 3 weeks after publication] by contacting Ms. Marguerite Thweatt, Organic Chemicals Group, (MD-13), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711, telephone number (919) 541-5607.

ADDRESSEES: Comments. Comments should be submitted (in duplicate, if possible) to: Air Docket Section (LE-131), Attention: Docket No. A-92-44, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460. The EPA requests that a separate copy also be sent to the contact person listed below. The public hearing, if required, will be held at the EPA's Office of Administration Auditorium, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

The docket is located at the above address in room M-1500, Waterside Mall (ground floor), and may be inspected from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday; telephone number (202) 382-7548. A

reasonable fee may be charged for copying docket materials.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For information concerning the methods, contact Mr. Solomon Ricks at (919) 541-5242, Emission Measurement Center, Emission Monitoring and Analysis Division (MD-19), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 27711.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed regulatory text of the proposed rule is not included in this Federal Register notice. The regulatory text is available in Docket No. A-92-44; or a limited number of copies of the regulatory text are available from the EPA contact person designated in this notice. This Notice with the proposed regulatory language is also available on the Technology Transfer Network (TTN) on the EPA's electronic bulletin boards. The TTN provides information and technology exchange in various areas of air pollution control. The service is free, except for the cost of a telephone call. Dial (919) 541-5742 for up to a 14,400 bps modem. If more information on TTN is needed, call the HELP line at (919) 541-5384.

Other materials related to this rulemaking are available for review in the docket.

I. Introduction

These methods will apply to ethylene-propylene elastomers production, polybutadiene rubber production, and styrene-butadiene rubber and latex production, using stripping technology as the method of compliance. As stated in the Polymers and Resins I rule, if compliance is to be demonstrated by sampling, samples of the stripped wet crumb or stripped latex must be taken immediately after the stripper and analyzed to determine the residual HAP content.

II. Summary of Proposed Methods

A. Method 310

The proposed method is adapted from a test method submitted to the EPA by the Exxon Chemical Company. The basic principle of the method is dissolving an EPDM crumb rubber sample in a polymer dissolving stock solution with an internal heptane standard. The solution is then analyzed for hexane and diene using a gas chromatograph (GC) with a flame ionization detector (FID). The solvent actually used in the production of the rubber is determined by the manufacturer. The particular solvent used by Exxon is hexane, therefore the proposed method is aimed towards the determination of residual hexane in the crumb rubber.

B. Method 312

The proposed method is adapted from a test method submitted to the EPA by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. The basic

principle of the method is coagulating the SBR latex sample with an internal standard and analyzing the extract to determine styrene concentration using a GC with a FID. The internal standard is prepared by mixing alpha-methylstyrene with either ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol.

C. Method 313

The proposed method is adapted from a test method submitted to the EPA by the American Synthetic Rubber Corporation (ASRC). The basic principle of the method involves the use of a headspace analyzer in determining the residual amount of toluene, dimer, and styrene in PBR and SBR samples. As is the case with Method 310, the solvent used in the production of the rubber is determined by the manufacturer. ASRC uses toluene as its manufacturing solvent, therefore this proposed method highlights the determination of residual toluene as the solvent.

III. Administrative Requirements

A. Public Hearing

In accordance with section 307(d)(5) of the Clean Air Act as amended by Public Law 101-549, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, a public hearing will be held, if requested, to discuss the proposed methods. Persons wishing to make oral presentations should contact EPA at the address given in the **ADDRESSEES** section of the preamble in the Polymers and Resins I rule. Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes each. Any member of

the public may file a written statement with the EPA before, during, or within 30 days after the hearing. Written statements should be addressed to the Air Docket Section address given in the **ADDRESSEES** section of the Polymers and Resins I rule.

A verbatim transcript of the hearing and written statements will be available for public inspection and copying during normal working hours at EPA's Air Docket Section in Washington, D.C.

B. Docket

The docket is an organized and complete file for all information submitted or otherwise considered by EPA in the development of this proposed rulemaking. The principal purposes of the docket are: (1) to allow interested parties to identify and locate documents so that they can effectively participate in the rulemaking process, and (2) to serve as the record in case of judicial review (except for interagency review materials) [Clean Air Act Section 307(d)(7)(A)].

C. Office of Management and Budget Review

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735 October 4, 1993)), the EPA is required to judge whether a regulation is "significant" and therefore subject to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and the requirements of this Executive Order to prepare a regulatory impact analysis (RIA). The Order defines "significant regulatory action" as one that is likely to result in a rule that may: (1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; (2) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency; (3) materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs, or the rights and obligation of recipients thereof; or (4) raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in the Executive Order.

D. Regulatory Flexibility Act Compliance

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) of 1980 requires the identification of potentially adverse impacts of Federal regulations upon small business entities. The RFA specifically requires the completion of an analysis in those instances where small business impacts are possible. This rulemaking does not impose emission measurement requirements beyond those specified in

the current regulations, nor does it change any emission standard. Because this rulemaking imposes no adverse economic impacts, an analysis has not been conducted.

Pursuant to section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 605(b), the Administrator certifies that this rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities because no additional cost will be incurred by such entities.

E. Paperwork Reduction Act

The rule does not change any information collection requirements subject of Office of Management and Budget review under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.

F. Unfunded Mandates

Under Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 ("Unfunded Mandates Act"), signed into law on March 22, 1995, EPA must prepare a budgetary impact statement to accompany any proposed or final rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in estimated costs to State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate; or to the private sector, of \$100 million or more. Under Section 205, EPA must select the most cost-effective and least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule and is consistent with statutory requirements. Section 203 requires EPA to establish a plan for significantly or uniquely impacted by the rule.

EPA has determined that the action proposed today does not include a Federal mandate that may result in estimated costs of \$100 million or more to either State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate, or to the private sector. Therefore, the requirements of the Unfunded Mandates Act do not apply to this action.

G. Statutory Authority

The statutory authority for this proposal is provided by section 112 of the Clean Air Act, as amended: 42 U.S.C., 7412.

Date

The Administrator