

May 5, 2002

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM SURFACE COATING OF MISCELLANEOUS METAL PARTS AND PRODUCTS

FACT SHEET

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a proposed rule to reduce toxic air emissions from the processes used to apply surface coatings to miscellaneous metal parts and products. Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental effects.
- Surface coating is a process of applying a protective, decorative, or functional coating to a substrate. Coating materials include, but are not limited to, paints, stains, sealers, topcoats, basecoats, primers, inks, and adhesives.
- EPA worked with industry representatives, individual states (including regulators, enforcement personnel, and small business advocates), and trade associations to develop this proposal.
- EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. The Agency expects to finalize the rule within 1 year after proposal.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to identify industrial or "source" categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. For categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons per year (tpy) or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tpy or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated (known as source categories) includes miscellaneous metal parts and products surface coating operations.
- Today's action would affect about 1500 facilities nationwide with miscellaneous metal parts and products surface coating operations. Coating operations are divided into three subcategories:
 - ▶ General use coating operations.
 - ▶ Magnet wire coating operations.
 - ▶ Rubber-to-metal coating operations.

- Air toxic emissions from miscellaneous metal parts and products facilities occur from the surface coating application process, which includes drying/curing operations, mixing and/or thinning operations, and cleaning operations.
- The air toxics emitted from miscellaneous metal parts and products surface coating operations vary by facility but include primarily xylene, toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, phenol, ethyl benzene, and glycol ethers. Health effects associated with exposure to these pollutants include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.

BENEFITS AND COST

- Today's action would reduce total emissions of air toxics by approximately 26,000 tpy, or about 48 percent from 1997 emission levels.
- Additional benefits of this action include a decrease in emissions of other pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds (VOC). These VOC contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog. When inhaled, even at very low levels, ground-level ozone can cause acute respiratory problems, aggravate asthma, reduce lung capacity, inflame lung tissue, and impair the body's immune system.
- EPA expects implementation of the rule as proposed to result in national costs of about \$57 million per year for the entire industry. These costs take into account the implementation of pollution prevention activities, such as reformulation of coatings, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting costs.

PROPOSED RULE REQUIREMENTS

- The proposed rule would affect any new, reconstructed, or existing miscellaneous metal parts and products facility that uses more than 946 liters (250 gallons) of coatings per year and is a "major" source of air toxic emissions.
- The emission limits apply to an affected facility, which includes the aggregate of all miscellaneous metal surface coating operations at that facility.
- The emission limits proposed today give the industry choices and flexibility in how they reduce air toxic emissions. The options are to:
 - (1) use coatings that have been reformulated to reduce the air toxics content,
 - (2) upgrade or install new capture-and-control systems to reduce air toxic emissions, and

(3) Use any combination of (1) and (2) above.

- Facilities must also meet certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including semiannual compliance reports.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the standard from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.
- The notice and technical support document are also available through the EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-97-34) by calling (202) 260-7548 or fax (202) 260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).
- Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-97-34, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Please also send a separate copy to Ms. Kim Teal, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group (C539-03), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; facsimile number (919) 541-5689; electronic mail address teal.kim@epa.gov.
- If you are submitting proprietary information, you must clearly distinguish it from other comments and clearly label it confidential. To ensure proprietary information is not released or inadvertently placed in the public docket, send such information directly to Ms. Kim Teal, c/o Document Control Officer (C404-02), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.
- For general information about the proposed standards, contact Ms. Kim Teal of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-5580, or by electronic mail at teal.kim@epa.gov. Or visit the miscellaneous metal parts and products (surface coating) website at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/coat/misc/misc_met.html.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR's home page address is <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.