

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 59

[AD-FRL_____]

National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for
Architectural Coatings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The EPA is reopening the public comment period for the proposed National Volatile Organic Emission Standards for Architectural Coatings. As initially published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on June 25, 1996 (61 FR 32729), written comments on the proposed rule were to be submitted to the EPA on or before August 30, 1996 (a 60-day public comment period). On September 3, 1996 the EPA published a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER (61 FR 46410) announcing an extension of the public comment period until September 30, 1996 (a 90-day public comment period). The public comment period is now being reopened and will end on November 4, 1996 (a 120-day public comment period).

As initially published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on June 25, 1996 (61 FR 32729), the proposed compliance date for the National Volatile Organic Emission Standards for Architectural Coatings was April 1, 1997. This proposed compliance date is being delayed until January 1, 1998 for all regulated entities.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by November 4, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments. Comments should be submitted (in duplicate) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention: Docket No. A-92-18, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on diskette in WordPerfect 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number A-92-18. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Docket. The proposed regulatory text and other materials related to this rulemaking, excepting any information claimed as CBI, are available for public review. This public record has been established for the rulemaking under Docket No. A-92-18 and contains supporting information used in developing the proposed rule. The docket, including paper versions of electronic comments, is available for public inspection and copying between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Waterside Mall, Room M1500, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number (202) 260-7548, FAX (202) 260-4400. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Ellen Ducey, Coatings and Consumer Products Group, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711, telephone number (919) 541-5408.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 25, 1996, at 61 FR 32729, the EPA published the proposed National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Architectural Coatings and provided a 60-day public comment period. Requests were received to extend the public comment period beyond the 60 days originally provided. In consideration of these requests, some of which were from small businesses that will be affected by the rule, the EPA extended the comment period by 30 days (until September 30, 1996), in order to give all interested persons the opportunity to comment fully. Subsequent to this extension, the EPA received requests for additional time beyond the 90 days provided to submit comments. In response to these additional requests for a further extension of the comment period and because an extension of the compliance

date is being proposed, the EPA is reopening the comment period until November 4, 1996.

The EPA has received numerous comments suggesting that the proposed compliance date of April 1, 1997 does not provide adequate time for some manufacturers and importers to meet the proposed rule requirements. Although the EPA is proposing requirements similar to those which have been in place for many years in certain areas of the country, some manufacturers who have not marketed into these areas have stated that they need time to complete reformulations, conduct product testing, and make labeling changes. Many of these requests for more compliance lead time have been from small manufacturers. In consideration of these comments, the EPA is proposing an additional nine months of lead time for manufacturers and importers to meet requirements. The proposed compliance date is January 1, 1998. The EPA requests comment on this new compliance date. Comments in support of additional compliance time beyond this date should include detailed information about the types of activities and time frames involved in meeting requirements specific to a manufacturer's particular product lines. In detailing the anticipated timing for compliance with requirements in the proposed rule, the option to obtain a variance for some product lines should be addressed.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 59.

Environmental protection, Air pollution control,
Architectural coatings, Ozone, Volatile organic compound.

DATE

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for Air and Radiation

(6560-50-P)