

May 23, 2002

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GENERIC MAXIMUM ACHIEVABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today amending its rule known as the Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology (GMACT) Rule. This rule applies to four categories of industrial sources of toxic air pollution including: acetal resin production, acrylic and modacrylic fiber production, hydrogen fluoride production, and polycarbonate production.
- ! Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems.
- ! In response to settlement agreement with the General Electric Company, this amendment would change the definition of "process vents", remove the specification of a two-hour time requirement for accessibility of records, and making minor technical corrections.
- ! The General Electric Company petitioned EPA to review the final GMACT rule issued in June 1999. EPA developed today's rule amendments in negotiations with the petitioner.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ! No emission reduction is associated with these amendments. However, these amendments will ensure that the this rule is clear and consistent with other EPA rules.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed air toxics. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups (known as source categories) that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of listed pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of maximum achievable control technologies to control air toxics emissions.

PRODUCTION PROCESSES AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENTS

! There are four major types of facilities presently operating that will be affected by these amendments. These are:

! Acetal Resin Production

Acetal resins are thermoplastics used in industrial applications, plumbing and irrigation, automotive plastic parts, consumer articles, appliances, and other plastic parts. The primary pollutants emitted from acetal resin production are formaldehyde and methanol.

! Acrylic and Modacrylic Fiber Production

Acrylic and modacrylic fibers are synthetic fibers used in two main industries : as a substitute for wool fibers in the textile industry manufacturing carpet, socks, sweaters, etc.; and as a carbon fiber precursor for the sporting goods industry (tennis rackets, golf clubs, etc.) and the aviation industry. The primary air toxics emitted from this process is acrylonitrile.

! Hydrogen Fluoride Production

Hydrogen fluoride is produced by reacting calcium fluoride with sulfuric acid. Hydrogen fluoride is used in the production of chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons, as well as in processes at refineries and in the production of aluminum fluoride.

! Polycarbonate Production

Polycarbonates are produced mainly by reacting bisphenol with phosgene. Methylene chloride is the solvent typically used in the process. Polycarbonates have a variety of uses, including compact disks, automotive parts, and electrical components. The primary air toxics produced during this process is methylene chloride.

FINAL AMENDMENT COSTS

! There are no costs associated with the change in definition for process vents. Costs may decline slightly with the change in recordkeeping.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

! Interested parties can download the proposed rule amendments from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. For further information about the final requirements,

contact the following persons at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards: for the acetal resins source category, contact Mr. John M. Schaefer at (919) 541-0296; for the acrylic and modacrylic fiber source category, contact Mr. Anthony P. Wayne at (919) 541-5439; for the hydrogen fluoride source category, contact Mr. Rick Colyer at (919) 541-5262; for the polycarbonate source category, contact Mr. Mark Morris at (919) 541-5416.

- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is:
<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.