DECEMBER 13, 2002

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR SECONDARY ALUMINUM PRODUCTION FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending the regulation that controls emissions of air toxics from secondary aluminum production facilities. The rule for secondary aluminum production facilities, issued in March 2000, is based on the maximum level of control that is achievable. This level of control is commonly known as MACT.

- Air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants (HAP), are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems in humans.

- The amendments implement settlement agreements with industry trade associations, including The Aluminum Association and The American Foundrymen's Society, by resolving applicability and compliance issues that arose after promulgation of the rule.

- Secondary aluminum plants emit a variety of toxic air pollutants. These air toxics vary by facility and process operation but may include up to 11 hazardous metals (including antimony, arsenic, lead, manganese, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, mercury, nickel, and selenium), organic compounds (including dioxins and furans, and polycyclic organic matter), and acid gases such as hydrogen chloride and chlorine. The health effects associated with exposure to these air toxics can include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.

- Today's final rule amendments would not change the health and environmental benefits of the rule, and they will not change the requirement that area sources and new and existing major sources control emissions of air toxics.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial 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 CAA requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of MACT. The CAA also requires EPA to regulate area sources where an area source finding has been

made due to the health effects of certain air toxics. Area sources are defined as those sources that emit hazardous air pollutants in quantities less than that of major sources.

- Air toxics are released from preprocessing operations such as aluminum scrap shredding, thermal chip drying, scrap drying/decoating/delacquering, and furnace operations (i.e., melting, holding, refining, fluxing, or alloying).

- No increase in emissions or health risk would occur as a result of the amendments.

WHAT THE AMENDMENTS REQUIRE

- The applicability provisions for aluminum die casters, extruders, and foundries are revised.

- The amendments also add new provisions for the control of commonly-ducted units, clarify the requirements for sidewell furnaces, and revise the procedures for adoption of operation, maintenance, and monitoring plans. They also revise the criteria for testing representative units and revise testing requirements for unvented in-line flux boxes. Technical and editorial corrections to the existing rule also are made.

COST OF THE AMENDMENTS

- No additional costs are associated with the amendments. The amendments will reduce the economic impact on small businesses because of the exemption for aluminum die casters, extruders, and foundries from certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements for sources if they are an area source, use clean charge only, and do not have an aluminum scrap shredder, delaquering kiln, or other similar device. Because fewer facilities would be subject to the rule, the recordkeeping and reporting cost of the existing rule is reduced by about 20 percent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the amendments, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at *http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/* under newly proposed or promulgated rules.

- For further information about the amendments, contact Mr. John Schaefer of EPA's Minerals and Inorganic Chemicals Group at (919) 541-0296 or *schaefer.john@epa.gov*.

- 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/*.