

5/13/99

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS RULE FOR PESTICIDE ACTIVE INGREDIENT PRODUCTION

TODAY'S ACTION...

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a final regulation to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) from certain pesticide active ingredient (PAI) manufacturing operations. HAPs, otherwise known as air toxics, are pollutants which are known or suspected to cause adverse health and environmental effects.
- Today's action regulates the production of PAIs that are used to manufacture insecticide, herbicide, and fungicide pesticide products. These products are typically used in the agricultural industry for treating insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds, or any other forms of life considered to be pests.
- This rule controls HAP emissions from the following points in the PAIs manufacturing process: process vents; storage vessels; wastewater and associated treatment residuals; certain equipment (pumps, compressors, agitators, pressure relief devices, sampling connection systems, open-ended valves or lines, valves, connectors, and instrumentation systems); and heat exchange systems.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF THIS RULE?

- The final rule will reduce emissions of a number of air toxics (including toluene, methanol, and hydrochloric acid) by 2,755 tons per year representing about a sixty-five percent reduction from current levels.
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BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally referenced 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactam from the list.) 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 pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air

pollution reduction measures based on maximum achievable control technology.

- The industrial source category “PAI production” is included in the list of source categories required to be regulated under the Clean Air Act.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE FINAL RULE?

- Today’s action affects newly built as well as existing PAI production facilities.
- EPA estimates that seventy-eight PAI production facilities are major sources of emissions of air toxics, and thus will be covered by this regulation. However, as a result of State regulations, many facilities subject to this final rule have already installed the stringent air pollution controls necessary to meet these national standards.
- EPA expects that a total of eight PAI production facilities will be built over the next five years. These facilities will also be subject to today’s regulation.

HOW MUCH WILL THE FINAL RULE COST?

- EPA expects the total nationwide capital cost for the entire PAI industry to be approximately \$71.6 million.
- EPA estimates the total nationwide annual cost for the entire PAI industry (existing and new sources) to be approximately \$44.9 million.

HOW DOES EPA’S FINAL RULE PROMOTE POLLUTION PREVENTION?

- This rule demonstrates EPA’s commitment to making pollution prevention an integral part of regulatory actions whenever possible by enabling facilities to choose to comply with the rule’s requirements using either an add-on control device or a pollution prevention alternative to control emissions from process vents. EPA worked in partnership with major stakeholders, including representatives from industry and State and local air pollution control agencies, in developing this rulemaking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

- Interested parties can download the rule from the Pesticide Active Ingredient UATW web site on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/pest/pestpg.html>. For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Lalit Banker (919-541-5420) of EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.
- 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/>.