

July 9, 2002

FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE REDUCING TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM RUBBER TIRE MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is promulgating a regulation to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from rubber tire manufacturing facilities.
- ! Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems in humans.
- ! Today's action focuses on reducing air toxics emitted during the three following tire manufacturing operations: 1) operations using solvents and cements at tire production facilities; 2) tire cord production; and 3) puncture sealant applications. The proposed rule also would reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds.
- ! Today's promulgation enables facilities to choose to comply with the rule's requirements using pollution prevention techniques on a facility-wide basis or by using an add-on control device to control emissions from various sources in the manufacturing process.
- ! EPA worked with major stakeholders, including representatives from industry and state and local air pollution control agencies in developing the rule.

BACKGROUND

- ! The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 requires EPA to identify categories of industries or "source categories" that emit one or more listed 188 hazardous air pollutants.
- ! EPA's published list of source categories includes rubber tire manufacturing.
- ! For "major sources" within each source category, the law requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest-emitting (also called best-performing) plants.
- ! Major sources are those that emit 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic air pollutant or 25 tons a year or more of a combination of air toxics.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- ! EPA's final rule would reduce air toxic emissions from solvents, cements and coating material used in the tire manufacturing industry by approximately 1,100 tons annually, or by 53 percent from current levels.
- ! The air toxics reduced include hexane, toluene, formaldehyde, styrene and methanol, which are associated with a variety of adverse health effects. These effects include chronic health disorders (e.g., effects on the central nervous system and reproductive system) and acute health disorders (e.g., irritation of eyes, throat, mucous membranes, headache, nausea, and blurred vision). Two of the air toxics (**which 2?**) have been classified as probable or possible human carcinogens.
- ! The final rule would also reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which 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.

WHAT THE PROMULGATED RULE REQUIRES

- ! The promulgated rule applies to all new or existing major source rubber tire manufacturing facilities.
- ! Tire production, tire cord production, and puncture sealant application operations are all affected by the promulgated rule.
 - ▶ **Tire production operations** will be required to reduce air toxic emissions by an average of 97 to 99 percent facility-wide, for individual facility emissions reductions ranging from less than 1 ton per year to over 250 tons per year. EPA estimates that 31 of the 43 tire manufacturing facilities evaluated for this promulgation would be affected by this requirement.
 - ▶ **Tire cord production operations** will have to reduce air toxic emissions an average of 72 percent facility-wide. EPA estimates that four tire cord facilities would be subject to this requirement and each will reduce emissions by an average of 36 tons per year per facility.

- ▶ **Puncture sealant operations** will have to reduce air toxic emissions by 86 percent for existing puncture sealant coating production lines and 95 percent for new puncture sealant coating production lines. There is one existing puncture sealant operation subject to the rule. No additional controls will be required at this facility to comply with the promulgated emission limitation.

- ! Many facilities subject to the promulgated rule already have reduced their air toxic emissions by installing controls required by state or federal new source performance standard regulations or through the elimination of, or substitution for, air toxics in cements, solvents and coating materials used as processing aides. The actions of these facilities have set the standard to be achieved in this promulgation.

- ! The monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements in the promulgated rule are similar to those required for other EPA air toxics regulations.

- ! The promulgated rule attempts to reduce or eliminate any redundant monitoring burdens that may exist between existing new source performance standards and this final air toxics rule. For example, the promulgated rule would require facilities to demonstrate compliance with the emission standards by monitoring their control devices and performing monthly recordkeeping.

COST OF THE PROMULGATED RULE

- ! EPA estimates that the total annual cost for affected tire production facilities to comply with the promulgated rule to be approximately \$23.7 million. These costs include the costs to install add-on controls or reformulate cements and solvents as well as monitoring and recordkeeping.

- ! EPA estimates the total annual cost for affected tire cord production facilities to comply with the promulgated rule to be approximately, \$2.77 million. These costs include the costs to install add-on controls or reformulate coatings as well as monitoring and recordkeeping.

- ! EPA estimates no capital costs for the existing puncture sealant operation. Total annual costs for monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting are included in the tire production cost estimates.

- ! EPA estimates the rule would increase the market price of tires by less than one cent per tire. Revenues or the value of domestic shipments for the industry are expected to increase by \$1.6 million, while operating profits will decrease by \$1.5 million. No rubber tire facilities are expected to close as a result of the regulation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download a copy of the promulgated rule, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly promulgated or promulgated rules.
- ! For further information about the promulgation, contact Mr. Anthony Wayne of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5439 or wayne.tony@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/>).