

SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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POLICY AND REGULATION

EPA's Small Entity Compliance Guides

Throughout 2024, EPA published a number of Small Entity Compliance Guides for environmental regulations which may impact a significant number of small businesses. Small Entity Compliance Guides (SECGs) are prepared pursuant to section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA) ([Title II of Public Law 104-121 \(PDF\)](#)). EPA prepares a SECG unless the agency can certify that the final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. [Access all of EPA's SECGs and Small Business Advocacy Review \(SBAR\) panel information.](#)

Potential SBAR Panel: National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts Rulemaking Revisions

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires the EPA to conduct a review every six years of existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) and determine which, if any, are appropriate for revision. The purpose of the review, called the Six-Year Review, is to evaluate available information for regulated contaminants to determine if any new information on health effects, treatment technologies, analytical methods, occurrence, exposure, implementation and/or other factors provides a basis to support a regulatory revision that would improve or strengthen public health protection. Under SDWA, each revised NPDWR shall maintain, or provide for greater, protection of the health of persons. [Read more on the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.](#)

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines and New Source Performance Standards: Internal Combustion Engines; Electronic Reporting

EPA is finalizing amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE), the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Stationary Compression Ignition (CI) Internal Combustion Engines, and the NSPS for Stationary Spark Ignition (SI) Internal Combustion Engines, to add electronic reporting provisions. The addition of electronic reporting provisions will provide for simplified reporting by sources and enhance availability of data on sources to the EPA and the public. In addition, a small number of clarifications and corrections to these rules are being finalized to provide clarification and correct inadvertent and other minor errors in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), particularly related to tables. This final rule was effective on August 30, 2024. [Read the rule in the Federal Register for more on the NESHAP amendments.](#)

EPA Strengthens the Safer Choice Standard for Commercial and Household Cleaning Products

On August 8, 2024, EPA finalized updates to strengthen the Safer Choice and Design for the Environment (DfE) Standard, which identifies the requirements that products and their ingredients must meet to earn EPA's Safer Choice label or DfE logo. These updates strengthen the criteria products must meet to qualify for the voluntary Safer Choice label, supporting the use of safer chemicals in the marketplace. [Read the press release on the Safer Choice and DfE program updates.](#)

Findings of Failure Submit State Implementation Plan Revisions for Nonattainment Areas for the 2010 1-Hour Primary Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard

EPA is taking final action to find that four states failed to submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions required by the Clean Air Act (CAA) in a timely manner for certain nonattainment areas for the 2010 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The states that failed to submit the required SIP revisions are Arizona, Louisiana, New York, and Virginia. This action triggers certain CAA deadlines for the imposition of sanctions if a state does not submit a complete SIP addressing the outstanding requirements and for the EPA to promulgate a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) if the EPA does not approve the state's SIP revision addressing the outstanding requirements. This final action is effective on September 16, 2024. [Read the rule in the Federal Register for more on this final action.](#)



KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Clean Air Excellence Awards

The Clean Air Excellence Awards Program, established at the recommendation of the [Clean Air Act Advisory Committee](#), periodically recognizes and honors outstanding innovative efforts to help make progress in achieving cleaner air. Award-winning entries must directly or indirectly reduce pollutant emissions, demonstrate innovation, offer sustainable outcomes, and provide a model for others to follow. Applications for EPA's 2025 Clean Air Excellence Awards are now being accepted. The application deadline is October 22, 2024. [Read more on the Clean Air Excellence Awards and how to apply.](#)

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Accomplishment Reporting

EPA has submitted an information collection request (ICR), Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Accomplishment Reporting (EPA ICR Number 2783.01, OMB Control Number 2090-New) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. This is a request for approval of a new collection. Public comments were previously requested via the *Federal Register* on February 6, 2024, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments. Comments may be submitted on or before

September 25, 2024. [Read the notice in the Federal Register on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Accomplishment Reporting.](#)

Notice of Availability of One Updated Chapter in the Environmental Protection Agency's Air Pollution Control Cost Manual-Fabric Filters

EPA is providing notice that one chapter of the current EPA Air Pollution Control Cost Manual (Control Cost Manual) has been updated. The EPA is requesting comment on: Chapter 1, Section 6, "Fabric Filters." This Control Cost Manual chapter covers control measures for particulate matter (PM), including fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) emissions. Comments must be received on or before November 19, 2024. [Read the Federal Register notice for more on the Air Pollution Control Cost Manual updates.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$3.48 Million for Tribes to Build Environmental Protection Capacity

On August 26, 2024, EPA announced the availability of approximately \$3.48 million for two, five-year cooperative agreements to build the capacity of Tribal governments to restore land for productive use and healthy communities, reduce waste, prevent environmental contamination and prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies in Indian country. There was a recorded informational EPA webinar on September 11, 2024, to hear about the funding opportunity, key sections of the application, and the application process. The deadline to apply for the Notice of Funding Opportunity is October 10, 2024. [Read the press release to learn more about this funding opportunity.](#)



Dear SBEAP:

I am new to the auto body business and need help communicating the regulations to my employees that speak Spanish. Do you know where I can find compliance information for my small business in various languages other than English?

-Auto Body Bob

Dear Bob:

It can be a challenge to find translated environmental compliance information in various languages, but as an auto body shop, you are in luck! EPA and a few states have published compliance resources for both auto body and auto repair shops. At National SBEAP, we have linked to a listing of these auto body [foreign language resources](#). These sector-specific resources include guidance for surface coating regulations, often known as the “6H rule,” as well as spray-painting efficiency training and guidance for managing hazardous waste and stormwater.

In addition to foreign language guidance for auto body shops, National SBEAP has also collected resources for dry cleaners, nail salons, housing contractors and agricultural workers. To find these sector-specific and general resources, check out the National SBEAP’s [foreign language webpage](#). You may also want to check out EPA’s [portal for individuals with limited English proficiency](#).

The [National SBEAP home page](#) allows all users to select a language, which then uses Google Translate to auto-translate our pages to the selected foreign language. To select a language translation, simply go to the drop-down box at the top right of the home page. Please feel free to reach out to info@nationalsbeap.org or 800-578-8898 if you identify additional compliance resources that should be posted or if you have a question. Many times, the best resource is to contact your state SBEAP, so make sure you have checked the [SBEAP state contact](#) list. State SBEAPs can speak with you about state-specific requirements and in many cases, provide a free, confidential on-site visit.



SPOTLIGHT

EPA Issues Emergency Order to Stop Use of Pesticide Dacthal to Address Serious Health Risk

On August 6, 2024, EPA announced the emergency suspension of all registrations of the pesticide dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA or Dacthal) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). This is the first time in almost 40 years EPA has taken this type of emergency action, following several years of unprecedented efforts by the Biden-Harris Administration to require the submission of long-overdue data and then assess and address the risk this pesticide poses. [Read the press release for more on the emergency stop use order of the pesticide.](#)

Reminder of OIG Fraud Alert: Notice of Violation Letter Phishing Scam

On July 30, 2024, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a fraud alert to highlight an increasingly common phishing scam involving fraudulent EPA Notice of Violation letters. In this scam, a fraudster sends a falsified EPA Notice of Violation letter to a target business and requests that the business respond by phone or email.

If you receive a Notice of Violation letter and are unsure of its validity, EPA's OIG encourage you to thoroughly review the letter, including the email address, and contact the [EPA's enforcement office](#) directly to verify authenticity. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud, or have knowledge of potential waste, fraud, or abuse involving EPA operations and programs, report it to the EPA OIG Hotline by completing the [online complaint form](#), emailing OIG.Hotline@epa.gov, or calling (888) 546-8740. [For more information, view the EPA OIG fraud alert public notice.](#)

EPA Issues Fuel Waiver for Four States Impacted by ExxonMobil Refinery Shutdown

On August 1, 2024, as part of the federal government's response to tornadoes that caused the emergency shutdown of the ExxonMobil Refinery in Joliet, Illinois, EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan issued an emergency fuel waiver to help alleviate fuel shortages in four states whose supply of gasoline has been impacted by the refinery shutdown. [Read the press release for more on the refinery shutdown and fuel waiver for impacted states.](#)

EPA's Annual Air Report Highlights Trends Through 2023

On August 16, 2024, EPA released its annual interactive report tracking America's progress in improving the air we breathe. "Our Nation's Air: Trends Through 2023" tracks trends in air quality and emissions data, evaluates efforts to improve visibility in treasured national parks and explores trends and community-level health impacts of hazardous air pollutants also known as air toxics. The report includes interactive graphics that enable citizens, policymakers and other stakeholders to view and download detailed information by pollutant, geographic location and year. [Read the press release to download and read the report highlights.](#)

EPA Updates the Indoor AirPlus Home Labeling Program for Healthier Indoor Air Quality

On August 5, 2024, EPA announced enhancements to its Indoor AirPlus home labeling program. These improvements are designed to advance indoor air quality protection and expand market accessibility. Indoor AirPlus is a voluntary partnership and labeling program designed to improve indoor air quality in homes. Builders that participate in the program use construction practices designed to minimize exposure to airborne pollutants and contaminants in the home. Indoor AirPlus homes are healthier by design. Strategies include mold and moisture control; radon resistance; pest management; improved heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems; combustion venting; healthier building materials; and homeowner education. Labeled homes can help reduce the likelihood of common and serious health problems like infectious disease, heart disease, cancer, asthma, allergies, respiratory issues, headaches and more. [Read the press release for more on the Indoor AirPlus Program updates.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Label Program to Bolster U.S. Manufacturing of Cleaner Construction Materials

On August 7, 2024, EPA announced its plan for implementing a new label program to boost clean American manufacturing by helping federal purchasers and other buyers find and buy cleaner, more climate-friendly construction materials and products. The label program is made possible by a \$100 million investment in the Biden-Harris Administration's Inflation Reduction Act and aims to cut climate pollution linked to the production of construction products and materials, which accounts for more than 15% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. The Inflation Reduction Act invests billions of dollars to reduce industrial emissions while supporting good union jobs, greater equity, and a strong manufacturing base, including \$350 million to support EPA's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from construction materials. [Read the press release for more on this federal label initiative for cleaner construction materials.](#)

EPA Calls for Nominations for 2025 Green Chemistry Challenge Awards

On August 29, 2024, EPA announced it is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Green Chemistry Challenge Awards from companies or institutions that have developed a new green chemistry process or product that helps protect human health and the environment. EPA's efforts to speed the adoption of this revolutionary and diverse discipline have led to significant environmental benefits, innovation and a strengthened economy. The awards program highlights green chemistry that helps prevent pollution before it is even created, making it a preferred approach for providing solutions to some

of the nation's most significant environmental challenges. Nominations are due to EPA by December 13, 2024. Additionally, EPA is announcing a webinar to be held on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, from 2-3 p.m. ET, to educate stakeholders on the Green Chemistry Challenge Awards and the nomination process. [Register for the webinar.](#) [Read the press release for more on the 2025 Green Chemistry Challenge Awards and the nomination process.](#)



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