

FACT SHEET

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS RULE FOR SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIR (SURFACE COATING) OPERATIONS

ACTION

- On December 22, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended its regulations to reduce toxic air pollutant emissions from Shipbuilding and Ship Repair (Surface Coating) Operations. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems.
- EPA issued a national rule to limit emissions of toxic air pollutants from Shipbuilding and Ship Repair (Surface Coating) Operations in December 2005. This rule is one of the 96 rules called maximum achievable control technology standards that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons of 187 toxic air pollutants. Congress listed these toxic air pollutants in the Clean Air Act.
- Facilities involved in shipbuilding and repair operations, that are major sources of toxics, are affected by this action. Major sources are those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a single toxic air pollutant or 25 tons per year of a combination of air toxics.
- EPA is taking direct final action to amend the definitions of “ship” and “pleasure craft” to more clearly state the distinction between the two. This rule clarifies that a yacht greater than 20 meters (78.7 feet) in length is a ship and is therefore, subject to the requirements of the rule. Smaller vessels are considered pleasure craft and are exempted from the rule’s requirements.
- The direct final rule amendments will not alter the stringency of the standards and will, therefore, have no health or environmental impacts.
- There are no costs associated with this rule.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the direct final rule amendments from EPA’s website, go to “Recent Actions” at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.
- Today’s action and other background information are also available either electronically through www.regulations.gov, the Federal government’s docket management system, or in hard copy at EPA’s Docket Center (6102T), EPA West, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B-102, Washington, DC (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0093). The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the EPA Docket Center is (202) 566-1742.

- For further information about the direct final rule amendments, contact Dr. Mohamed of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Sector Policies and Programs Division, Natural Resources and Commerce Group at (919) 541-2379 or by e-mail at serageldin.mohamed@epa.gov . Or visit the NESHAP for Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Operations website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/shipb/shipbpg.html>.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) home page 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 OAR home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar> .