

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSION FROM HYDROCHLORIC ACID PRODUCTION

ACTION

- On August 17, 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to its final rule controlling emissions of toxic air pollutants during hydrochloric acid (HCl) production. Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems.
- The proposed amendments would subject certain facilities that process hazardous waste feedstocks to the final rule. We are proposing these amendments to facilitate compliance and improve understanding of the final rule requirements.
- In addition, the proposed amendments would clarify certain applicability provisions; emission standards; and testing, maintenance, and reporting requirements based on concerns raised by the industry. The amendments would also correct several omissions and typographical errors in the rule.
- Hydrochloric acid is used in a variety of industrial processes including:
 - refining ore for the production of tin and tantalum,
 - pickling and cleaning of metal products,
 - electroplating,
 - cleaning boilers,
 - neutralizing chemically basic systems,
 - manufacturing fertilizers, dyes, textiles and rubber, and
 - preparing various food products.HCl is also used as a laboratory reagent.
- EPA will take public comment on the proposed amendments for 45 days starting on publication in the Federal Register. The Agency will hold a public hearing, if requested, within 30 days of publication. After carefully considering the comments received, the EPA will issue final amendments.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. For major sources, those with the potential to emit 10 tons or more annually of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of listed pollutants, these rules require the application of strict controls known as maximum achievable control technology.
- In 1992, the EPA developed a list of industrial categories that will be subject to air toxic

emission controls. The EPA included HCl production and fume silica production on that list. Fumed silica is a fine white powder used as a thickener, or reinforcing agent in inks, resins, rubber, paints, and cosmetics.

- On April 17, 2003, the EPA published final standards (68 FR 19076) for the control of HAP from HCl production (40 CFR part 63, subpart NNNNN). The final rule contains emission limitations and standards applicable to HCl and chlorine (Cl₂). These limits apply to each new or existing HCl process vent, HCl storage tank, HCl transfer operation, and leaks from equipment in HCl service located at a major source of HAP. After promulgation, some applicability- and compliance-related issues, in addition to several inadvertent omissions and typographical errors, were identified. We are proposing today's amendments to address these issues.

HEALTH/ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- The final rule will protect human health and the environment by reducing air toxic emissions approximately 52 percent. The EPA estimates total annual air toxic reductions of 1,790 tons per year when the rules are fully implemented. The main air toxics reduced are:

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Emissions Reductions</u>
HCl	1,200 tons
Chlorine	590 tons

- Exposure to HCl and chlorine may produce a wide variety of human health effects including irritation of the lungs, skin, and mucous membranes; dysfunction of the central nervous system; digestive and respiratory problems; and skin irritation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the proposed rule from EPA's web site, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.
- For further information about the proposed rule, contact Mr. Bill Maxwell at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Rules at 919-541-5430.
- Send any comments on the proposed rulemaking (in duplicate if possible) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention: Docket No. OAR-2002-0057, Room B102, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. You may also submit comments and data by electronic mail (e-mail) to: A-and-R-Docket@epamail.epa.gov. Submit electronic comments as an ASCII file to avoid the use of special characters and encryption problems or in WordPerfect® version 5.1, 6.1, or Corel® 8 file format. Electronic comments and data must note the docket number. You may file electronic comments online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Do not submit confidential business information (CBI) by e-mail. See the *Federal Register* notice for more information on how to handle the submittal of

CBI.

- 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>.