

02-17-99

FACT SHEET

ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE NSPS AMENDMENT

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending the new source performance standards for electric arc furnaces. Electric arc furnaces emit particulate matter, which is an air pollutant that is associated with adverse health effects, such as respiratory illness and even premature death.
- These standards specify separate regulatory requirements for electric arc furnaces constructed after October 21, 1974 and on or before August 17, 1983 and for electric arc furnaces constructed after August 17, 1983.
- An electric arc furnace is used to produce carbon and alloy steels from scrap steel. There are over 200 electric arc furnaces in the US, of which approximately 130 are subject to these regulations.
- EPA is amending the rules to implement recommendations received from the Common Sense Initiative subcommittee on iron and steel. The changes will not remove any of the rules requirements, but will add alternative monitoring options that will provide owners and operators more flexibility in complying with the rule while not reducing environmental benefit.
- EPA is also making a number of editorial changes which either correct or clarify rule language. EPA does not believe that these editorial changes will effect the rules applicability or requirements.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TODAY'S ACTION?

- The alternative capture system monitoring requirements will give EPA and facilities a better alternative for assessment of the capture system's effectiveness in capturing fugitive emissions.
- Improved capture of fugitives will reduce emissions of particulate matter, including fine particulate.

BACKGROUND

- The new source performance standard for electric arc furnaces constructed after October 21, 1974 and on or before August 17, 1983 was first published in the Federal Register on September 25, 1975.

- The new source performance standard for electric arc furnaces constructed after August 17, 1983 was first published in the Federal Register on October 31, 1984.
- The Common Sense Initiative Council was established within EPA, with the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Water as co-leads, and with all program offices participating, under a charter approved pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act by the Administrator and by the Office of Management and Budget.
- Industry raised concerns to the Common Sense Initiative Council regarding the use of a pressure monitoring system in the free space above an electric arc furnace when the furnace is equipped with a direct shell evacuation system, and the use of fan amperage as an indicator of flowrate of emissions.
- Following discussions and negotiations between the various subcommittee members, the subcommittee recommended daily visible emissions observations as an alternative to pressure monitoring, and monitoring flowrate at the baghouse inlet as an alternative to monitoring fan amperage.

WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED BY EPA'S AMENDMENT?

- Owners and operators of electric arc furnaces who are currently subject to new source performance standards will be affected by the amendment.
- There are over 200 EAF furnaces in the US, of which approximately 130 are subject to these regulations.

HOW DOES EPA'S PROPOSAL PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO INDUSTRY?

- The amendment provides owners and operators alternatives to existing monitoring requirements. The existing alternatives will still be available for those owners and operators that choose to use them.
- EPA is amending the rules to implement the Common Sense Initiative subcommittee on iron and steel's recommendations.
- The Common Sense Initiative was established by the Administrator to bring together affected stakeholders to find cleaner, cheaper, and smarter environmental management solutions.

HOW MUCH WOULD EPA'S PROPOSED REGULATION COST?

- EPA has estimated that if all affected sources elect to use the alternative monitoring requirements, the nationwide cost impact would be approximately \$400,000, or \$24,000 per source. The majority of the cost is associated with daily shop opacity observations. Note, that these are voluntary alternatives, and are being added at the request of the

industry.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under recently signed rules at the following address: *http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/rules.html*. For further information about the proposal, contact Mr. Kevin Cavender of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919)541-1512.
- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on EPA's air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's homepage address is: *http://www.epa.gov/oar/*.