

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS RULE FOR AREA SOURCES: ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE STEELMAKING FACILITIES

ACTION

- On November 24, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued direct final amendments to the Agency's 2007 final air toxics standards for electric arc furnace steelmaking facilities that are area sources. The amendments make minor technical corrections and clarifications.
- The amendments clarify applicability of the opacity limit, make the performance test requirements for particulate matter consistent with requirements in the new source performance standards for electric arc furnace steelmaking facilities, allow title V test data to be used to demonstrate compliance, and revise the definition of "scrap provider" to include electric arc furnace steelmaking facilities that own and operate a scrap shredder.
- EPA is publishing these changes as a direct final rule because the changes are noncontroversial and no adverse comments are anticipated. If adverse comments are received, EPA will address the comments in a subsequent final rule based on a parallel proposal that is being issued in conjunction with the direct final rule amendments.
- EPA issued the final air toxics standards for electric arc furnace steelmaking facilities that are area sources on December 28, 2007. The final rule requires electric arc furnace steelmaking facilities that are area sources to comply with requirements for the control of emissions of particulate matter. EPA also set work practice standards for the control of mercury emissions.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- The direct final amendments do not change the level of emissions control provided by the current standards.
- The direct final amendments will have no cost impact on plants covered by these rules.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 188 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.

- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy. Electric arc furnace steelmaking facilities are included on the area source category list.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- The Clean Air Act also requires EPA to identify categories of sources that account for at least 90 percent of the emissions from seven specific hazardous air pollutants. Congress targeted these specific pollutants because of their persistence and tendency to bioaccumulate in the environment. EPA added electric arc steelmaking facilities to this list of source categories because of mercury emissions. Standards for these source categories must be based on MACT.
- The final air toxics rules were developed in response to the requirements in sections 112(c)(6) and 112(k) of the Clean Air Act and were issued in response to a court order that directs EPA to issue final rules for area sources every six months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the direct final amendments, go to EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Phil Mulrine of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5289 or mulrine.phil@epa.gov.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comments for 30 days after the direct-final rule with parallel proposal is published in the *Federal Register*.
- Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2004–0083 and submitted

by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
- e-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov)
- Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
- Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).