

FACT SHEET

Electric Arc Furnace New Source Performance Standards Amendments

ACTION

- On February 14, 2005 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final amendments to two standards of performance for new stationary sources for electric arc furnaces (EAF) at steel plants. One of these standards applies to facilities constructed after October 21, 1974, and on or before August 17, 1983. A second set of standards of performance applies to EAF constructed after August 17, 1983.
- The amendments allow bag leak detection (a method of monitoring for torn or leaking bags in the baghouse) coupled with daily observations of the clarity or "opacity" of air emissions from stacks as an alternative to a continuous opacity monitoring system.
- EPA is also making a number of editorial changes which either correct or clarify rule language. These editorial changes will not effect the rules' applicability or requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- The changes will not remove any of the rules' pollution control requirements, but will provide owners and operators more flexibility in monitoring compliance with the rules while maintaining the environmental benefit. The amendments also make the rules more consistent with other similar EPA rules that may apply to EAF or steel plants.
- The nationwide annual monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting costs for the new monitoring option is \$96,000, including the offsetting costs associated with no longer operating and maintaining a continuous opacity monitoring system.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set new source performance standards to ensure that emissions from newly built or reconstructed facilities meet strict limits. These limits are generally more stringent than emission limits set for existing facilities already in operation.
- An EAF is used to produce carbon and alloy steels from scrap steel. There are over 200 EAF furnaces in the US. Approximately 130 are subject to one of the two sets of performance standards.
- EPA developed the amendments in response to a petition filed by industry trade groups requesting that EPA revise the rules to address technological limitations associated with measuring low levels of opacity using a continuous opacity monitoring system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final rule amendments, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Kevin Cavender of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2364 or cavender.kevin@epa.gov.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: [\(http://www.epa.gov/oar/\)](http://www.epa.gov/oar/).