

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENT TO THE AIR TOXICS RULE FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

ACTION

- On February 23, 2006 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended the air toxics rule for the Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing industry. Owners or operators of organic chemical manufacturing process units that are located at industrial facilities will be affected by these proposed amendments.
- The amendment extends the compliance date from November 10, 2006 to May 10, 2008, and is part of a settlement agreement entered into by EPA and petitioners of the 2003 final air toxics rule for this industry. The petitioners are the American Chemistry Council, Eastman Chemical Company, Clariant LSM (America), Inc., Rohm and Haas Company, General Electric Company, Lyondell Chemical Company and the Coke Ovens Environmental Task Force.
- The petitioners raised several issues including:
 - extending the compliance date
 - including specific operations and processes in the rule,
 - the leak detection and repair requirements for connectors,
 - definition of process vents and affected wastewater streams,
 - control requirements for wastewater streams that contain only soluble air toxics,
 - the definition of process condensers, and
 - recordkeeping requirements for batch process vents.
- In this action, EPA is only amending the rule to extend the compliance date. EPA will address the remaining issues in an upcoming rulemaking, which the Agency will finalize by June 30, 2006. EPA determined that the compliance date extension is necessary because of possible rule changes that may result from the June 2006 action. Any changes would result in owners and operators needing more time to revise their implementation and compliance strategies.
- EPA published the proposed amendments on December 8, 2005, and received a total of eight comments. All commenters expressed support for the Agency's decision to extend the compliance date.
- The amendment does not alter the maximum available control technology (MACT) standards and does not change the health or environmental impacts.
- There are no additional costs associated with this amendment.
- EPA published a national rule to limit emissions of toxic air pollutants from these operations

in 2003. That rule is one of 96 rules called maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.5 million tons per year of toxic air pollutants. Congress listed these toxic air pollutants in the Clean Air Act.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more of the listed toxic air pollutants.
- EPA published the final rule for Miscellaneous Chemical Manufacturing Industry in the Federal Register on November 10, 2003. EPA estimated that the final rule will reduce HAP emissions by 16,800 tons per year for existing facilities that manufacture miscellaneous organic chemicals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the proposed action from EPA's website, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>
- For further information about the rule, contact Mr. Randy McDonald of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone (919) 541-5402 or by e-mail at mcdonald.randy@epa.gov.