

05/28/99

FACT SHEET
Compliance Extension for Specified Polymers and Resins IV Facilities

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is temporarily extending the compliance date for the equipment leaks provisions of the Group IV Polymers and Resins rule affecting facilities producing polyethylene terephthalate (PET) resins. These provisions address leaks of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) from components such as pumps, valves, connectors, open ended lines, etc.
- EPA is temporarily extending this compliance date to fully complete consideration of new information submitted by petitioners requesting reconsideration of the equipment leaks provisions affecting PET production facilities.
- This direct final rule will extend the compliance date until the effective date of EPA's final action following reconsideration of the rule, but no later than February 27, 2001, the latest compliance date permitted by the Clean Air Act.

HISTORY

- On September 12, 1996, EPA issued a regulation to reduce emissions of HAP from thermoplastics production, which affected PET production facilities. EPA required existing sources to comply with the equipment leaks provisions of this regulation by March 12, 1997. These equipment leaks provisions were based upon the provisions of a previously issued regulation, the Hazardous Organic NESHAP, commonly referred to as the HON. On June 6, 1997, EPA previously extended the compliance date for thermoplastics production equipment leaks provisions to no later than September 12, 1999, in order to evaluate new information provided by the petitioners requesting reconsideration of the equipment leak provisions.
- In August 1997, the petitioners provided new information to support the petitioners' comments made during the public comment period of March 29, 1995, to May 30, 1995. These comments questioned the validity of the EPA's predictions of the costs and cost-effectiveness of the leak detection and repair program. This new information, which EPA did not have prior to issuing the final rule, include data related to emissions and costs. This has led EPA to accept the petitioners' request to reconsider leaks provisions of the rule applicable to PET affected facilities. A second petition was filed subsequently by another PET producer requesting the same relief.
- EPA expects to complete the review and analysis of the emission and cost information being furnished by the petitioners by December 18, 1998. However, the final action resulting from the analysis cannot be completed until after the current September 12, 1999 compliance date due to the requirement for notice and comment. Therefore EPA is temporarily extending the compliance date until the effective date of final action on the rule, but no later than February 27, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Interested parties with access to the Internet can obtain an electronic copy of the notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>. For questions concerning the compliance extension, contact your EPA Regional Office, or Keith Barnett of EPA's Office of Air Quality, Planning, and Standards at (919) 541-5605.