

## FACT SHEET

### FINAL AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR EIGHT SOURCE CATEGORIES (RTR GROUP 1)

#### ACTION

- On December 10, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized its decision not to amend four air toxics rules (also known as MACT standards) covering eight types of production processes. EPA concluded that the existing MACT standards effectively address air toxic emissions for all eight industries and that no additional controls are necessary.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to determine if there is risk remaining after the final MACT standards were applied. This is known as a residual risk assessment.
- The risk assessment found that after application of the MACT standards the chronic cancer risks are below 1-in-1 million, and no further cancer risk reduction is required. The analysis also found that non-cancer and acute risks to humans, as well as ecological risks from these facilities are low and that no further controls are warranted.
- EPA must also review and revise MACT standards, as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes, and control technologies since the standards were issued.
- The technology assessment did not identify any advancements in practices, processes, or control technology.
- The final rule affects the following rules/standards\*:
  - Group I Polymers and Resins (09/05/96) which includes the following production processes:
    - Polysulfide Rubber Production
    - Ethylene Propylene Rubber Production
    - Butyl Rubber Production
    - Neoprene Production
  - Epoxy Resins Production and Non-nylon Polyamides Production (03/08/95) which includes the following production processes:
    - Epoxy Resins Production
    - Non-nylon Polyamides Production
  - Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology (06/29/99): Acetal Resins Production
  - Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology (06/29/99): Hydrogen Fluoride Production

\* Issue date is noted in parenthesis and affected source categories are included after each rule/standard.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, from large industrial facilities in two phases.
- The first phase is “technology-based,” where EPA develops standards for controlling the emissions of air toxics from sources in an industry group (or “source category”). These MACT standards are based on emissions levels that are already being achieved by the better-controlled and lower-emitting sources in an industry.
- Within eight years of setting the MACT standards, Clean Air Act section 112(f) directs EPA to assess the remaining health risks from each source category to determine whether the MACT standards protect public health with an ample margin of safety and protect against adverse environmental effects. This second phase is a “risk-based” approach called residual risk. Here, EPA must determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- Also, every eight years after setting the MACT standards, Clean Air Act section 112 (d)(6) requires that EPA review and revise the standards, if necessary, to account for improvements in air pollution controls and/or prevention.
- The previously-issued air toxic standards for these eight industries are four of 96 air toxic standards called maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons of 187 toxic air pollutants. Congress listed these toxic air pollutants in the Clean Air Act.
- When EPA promulgated these four standards, the Agency projected that they would reduce air toxic emissions from 20 facilities in eight source categories by approximately 3,800 tons per year from process vents, storage tanks, equipment leaks, wastewater systems, transfer racks, and leaks from kilns. This represents an approximately 54 percent reduction from emissions levels before the MACT requirements took effect.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's web site at the following address:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- Today’s final rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA’s electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center’s Public Reading Room.
- The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

- Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
- Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ- OAR-2007-0211.
- For further information, contact Mary Tom Kissell of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone at (919) 541-4516 or by e-mail at *kissell.mary@epa.gov*.