

07/16/99

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO FINAL AIR TOXICS RULE FOR HALOGENATED SOLVENT CLEANING

TODAY'S ACTION

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending the final air toxics rule for halogenated solvent cleaning operations. These operations are typically referred to as “degreasers” which are sometimes used for cleaning purposes at industrial operations such as gasoline stations, machinery manufacturing, electrical equipment manufacturing, and computer and electronic equipment manufacturing. This action amends EPA’s final notice issued December 2, 1994 (59 FR 61801).
- ◆ In today’s action, EPA is permanently exempting small batch cold cleaning machines that use halogenated solvents from the Federal operating permit requirements (Part 71). For all other small halogenated solvent cleaning machines, EPA is deferring the Federal operating permit requirements until December 9, 1999.
- ◆ Without today’s amendment, approximately 200 small halogenated cleaning machines located primarily in Indian country would be required to submit Federal operating permit applications by March 2000. The effect of today’s administrative action is to temporarily relieve these small sources from permitting requirements under EPA’s Title V operating permit program.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, State agencies are required to develop and implement operating permit programs. Currently, States and local agencies are implementing EPA-approved operating permit programs. Under these programs, industrial and commercial operations are required to obtain operating permits that identify their emission points and applicable control requirements. Indian Tribes have not yet developed their own permit programs. EPA is authorized under the Clean Air Act to implement operating permit programs in any area (such as Indian country) that lacks an approved program.
- ◆ In the final toxics rule for halogenated solvent cleaners, EPA allowed the State and local agencies to exempt or defer small degreasing operations from their operating permit programs. Today’s action provides the same relief for small halogenated solvent operations located in Indian country as those located in other jurisdictions.

WHAT TYPES OF SOURCES ARE AFFECTED BY THIS AMENDMENT?

- ◆ There are approximately 200 small degreasers affected by this amendment, which are primarily located in Indian country at small gasoline stations and auto repair shops.
- ◆ EPA is exempting or deferring permits for “small” degreasing operations that have the potential to emit less than 10 tons per year of a single hazardous air pollutant and less than 25 tons per year total for all hazardous air pollutants.

DOES THIS AMENDMENT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE POLLUTION CONTROLS REQUIRED BY THE AIR TOXICS RULE?

- ◆ This amendment only affects whether a small degreasing operation must obtain an operating permit. It does not relieve the source of any obligations contained in the air toxics rule such as controls, records, reports, and monitoring.

WHEN DOES THIS AMENDMENT BECOME EFFECTIVE?

- ◆ The amendment becomes effective 60 days from publication in the Federal Register unless EPA receives adverse comment with 30 days of publication. If EPA receives adverse comment, EPA will withdraw the rule and it will not take effect. EPA would consider all public comments in a subsequent final rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

- ◆ Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under “recent actions” at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. For further information about the revision, contact Candace Carraway of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3189.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.