

FACT SHEET

Final Amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from the Pulp and Paper Industry

ACTION

- On July 31, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final amendments to air toxics standards for the pulp and paper industry.
- The EPA issued the initial emission standards for this industry in August 1998. The standards cover 171 pulp and papermaking facilities. This review of those standards, known as the risk and technology review, evaluated:
 - Availability of new, improved or previously unidentified emission control approaches, practices or processes;
 - Whether additional emission reductions were warranted to protect public health; and
 - If additional changes were needed to assure that the rules are accurate and legally defensible.

Residual Risk Assessment

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires the EPA to assess the risk remaining after application of the final air toxic standards. This process is known as a residual risk assessment.
- The residual risk assessment includes the following analyses:
 - Estimates of individual source category risk.
 - Risk estimates from all air toxic emissions at a facility (“total facility risk”).
 - Analysis of air toxics-related risks across different social, demographic and economic groups living near the facilities.
 - Risk estimates based on the actual emissions reported as emitted.
 - Risk estimates based on emissions allowed by the current air toxics standard.
- The results of the residual risk assessment suggest that the level of risk due to emissions from the source category is “acceptable” since the cancer risks are well below 100 in 1 million and the other health risks (including noncancer risks) from the source category are not significant.

Technology Review

- The CAA requires the EPA to review the national emission standards and to revise them as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes and control technologies since the standards were first established.
- During the technology assessment, the EPA did not identify any cost-effective developments in practices, processes or control technologies.

Start-up, Shutdown Malfunction Provisions

- These final amendments eliminate the exemptions to emission limits during periods of startup,

shutdown and malfunction to ensure the standards are consistent with the District of Columbia Circuit Court's vacatur of such provisions in other rules.

Compliance Testing

- To assure that control systems are properly maintained, this final rule requires compliance testing as part of each 5 year permit review cycle rather than a one-time-only test.
- The Agency estimates total industry costs for testing, monitoring, reporting, and record keeping will be approximately \$2.1 million per year.

BACKGROUND

- The CAA requires the 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 the EPA develops standards for controlling the emissions of air toxics from sources in an industry group (or "source category"). These Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards are based on emissions levels that are already being achieved by the better-controlled and lower-emitting sources in an industry.
- Within 8 years of setting the MACT standards, the CAA directs the 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, the EPA must determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- Also, every 8 years after setting the MACT standards, the CAA requires that the EPA review the national emission standards, and revise them as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes and control technologies.
- The previously-issued air toxic standards for this source category are one of 96 air toxic standards (MACT) that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons of 187 toxic air pollutants. Congress listed these toxic air pollutants in the CAA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the notice from the EPA's website 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>, the 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 Library, 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 Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0544.
- For further information, contact William Schrock of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone at (919) 541-5032, or by email at: schrock.bill@epa.gov.